MASON'S

O.K. Sauce,
O.K. Pickles,
Mango Chutney,
Worcestershire Sauce,
Mustard Sauce,
Tomato Catsup.

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Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

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ROYAL

ALEX. ROSS & Co.,
Machinery Department,
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'Phone 87.

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No. 18,683 號三十八百六千八萬一第 日九廿月二年午戊 HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 1918. 二拜禮 號九月四年七國民華中 PRICE, $3 PER MONTH.

INTIMATIONS

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PORTLAND CEMENT

In Casks 375 lbs. net.
In Bags 250 lbs. net.
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NEW CARTRIDGES.

JUST ARRIVED.

FIRST-CLASS, DAMP PROOF, AMERICAN SPORTING CARTRIDGES:—12, 16, and 20 Bore, loaded with all sizes of Chilled Shot.

These Cartridges, made of the finest damp proof material, steel lined inside with brass casing 1¼" deep on the outside, are especially made to withstand the effects of damp climates and are second to none for reliability in the field.

We have also received a consignment of B.S.A. Air Rifles.

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Photographic Goods of Every Description in Stock.

Developing, Printing and Enlarging.

Canton Marbles in Various Shades.

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PEAK TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME-TABLE

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m.	to 8.00 a.m.	Every 15 minutes	
8.00 „	to 10.00 „	„	10 „
10.00 „	to 11.00 „	„	15 „
11.30 „	to 12.45 p.m.	„	15 „
12.45 p.m.	to 1.15 „	„	10 „
1.15 „	to 1.45 „	„	15 „
1.45 „	to 2.15 „	„	10 „
2.15 „	to 5.00 „	„	15 „
5.00 „	to 8.00 „	„	10 „

NIGHT CARS.

8.50 p.m. and 9.00 p.m., 9.30 to 11.00 p.m. Every Half-Hour.
11.00 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. Every Quarter-Hour

SUNDAYS.

7.30 a.m.			
8.00 „	to 10.30 a.m.	Every 15	minutes
10.30 „	to 11.00 a.m.	„ 10	„
11.30 „	to 12.00 noon	„ 15	„
12.00 noon	to 1.00 p.m.	„ 10	„
1.00 p.m.	to 5.30 „	„ 15	„
5.30 „	to 6.00 „	„ 10	„
6.00 „	to 6.30 „	„ 15	„
6.30 „	to 8.30 „	„ 10	„

NIGHTS CARS as on Week Days.

SATURDAYS.

Extra Car at 12 Midnight.

SPECIAL CARS by arrangement at the Company's Office, Alexandra Buildings, Des Vœux Road Central.

Season and punch tickets available for all cars not already full running at the time stated in the Company's time-tables, but not for special cars, can be obtained on application at the Company's Office. No Season ticket will be issued until payment therefor has been made in Bank Notes or by Cheque or Compradore Order representing Bank Notes.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.
[1342

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

TIME-TABLE.

On and after WEDNESDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 1917, until further Notice.

DOWN TRAINS.

Stations		No. 5 Through Express. a.m.	No. 7 Local. a.m.	No. 9 Through Slow. a.m.	No. 11 Local. a.m.	No. 13 Through Express. p.m.	No. 17 Local. p.m.	No. 19 Local. p.m.	No. 21 Local. p.m.
CANTON (Tai Sha Tau)	dep.	7.25		8.26		3.20			
SHEK LUNG	dep.	8.40		11.10		4.35			
Shum Chun	dep.	10.25	8.05	1.30	11.45	6.20	5.20	6.20	6.00
Sheung Shui	dep.		8.12	1.37	11.52		5.27	6.32	6.07
Fanling	dep.		8.19	1.44	11.58		5.40	6.40	6.11
Taipo Market	dep.		8.25	1.52	12.06		5.49	6.48	6.18
Taipo	dep.		8.32	1.58	12.11		5.53	6.51	6.21
Shatin	dep.		8.44	2.12	12.24		6.05		
Yaumati*	dep.		8.56	2.28	12.36		6.15		
Hung Hom	dep.		9.02	2.32	12.42		6.20		
KOWLOON	arr.	11.05	9.05	2.35	12.45	7.00	6.23	7.14	6.45

Sats., Suns. and Public Holidays excepted. Sats., Suns. and Public Holidays only.

UP TRAINS

Stations		No. 4 Local. a.m.	No. 6 Through Express. a.m.	No. 8 Through Slow. a.m.	No. 10 Local. a.m.	No. 14 Local. p.m.	No. 16 Local. p.m.	No. 18 Through Express. p.m.	No. 20 Local. p.m.	No. 22 Local. p.m.
East Ferry (Star)	H.K.	6.35	7.55	9.15	10.15	1.35	1.35	2.35	5.05	4.35
KOWLOON	dep.	6.50	8.05	9.30	10.23	1.23	1.43	2.50	5.15	4.50
Hung Hom	dep.	6.54		9.36	10.33	1.32	1.52		5.23	4.54
Yaumati	dep.	7.00	—	9.43	10.40	1.39	1.58	—	5.27	4.59
Shatin	dep.	7.11	—	9.56	10.52	1.48	2.09	—	5.38	5.11
Taipo	dep.	7.23	—	10.09	11.04	2.01	2.22	—	5.52	5.24
Taipo Market	dep.	7.27	—	10.13	11.08	2.05	2.25	—	5.56	—
Fanling	dep.	7.37	—	10.23	11.17	2.14	2.34	—	6.04	5.33
Sheung Shui	dep.	7.40	—	10.25	11.20	2.17	2.37	—	6.07	5.36
Shum Chun	arr.	7.45	—	—	11.25	2.23	2.41	—	6.12	5.42
	dep.	—	8.50	11.00	—	—	—	2.35	6.35	—
SHEK LUNG	dep.	—	10.35	2.35	—	—	—	5.35	—	—
CANTON (Tai Sha Tau)	arr.	—	11.46	4.50	—	—	—	6.42	—	—

Sats., Suns. and Public Holidays only. Wdys. and Sats. only. Wdys. and Sats. Excepted. Sats., Suns. and Public Holidays only.

* Will stop at Taipo and Sheung Shui to allow First-Class Passengers to alight, on Notice being given to the guard.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.

The Railway Administration do not guarantee that the ferries mentioned in this table will connect with the trains as shown.

SHA TAU KOK BRANCH.

		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.			a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Fanling	dep.	8.20	11.25	2.50	Shataukok	dep.	10.00	1.20	5.00
Shataukok	arr.	9.15	12.20	3.50	Fanling	arr.	11.00	2.20	6.00

[732

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1A., A.B.C., WESTERN UNION, ENGINEERING AND BENTLEY CODES USED.

Builders and Repairers of Ships, Engines and Boilers, and Electrical Engineers, Manufacturers of Contraflo Condensers, Stone's Manganese Bronze Castings, Parson's Steam Turbines and Turbo-Alternators, &c., &c.

NAGASAKI WORKS.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:—"DOCK," NAGASAKI.
GRAVING DOCKS AND PATENT SLIP.

	Dock No. 1.	Dock No. 2.	Dock No. 3.
Length on Keel Blocks	510 feet.	350 feet.	714 feet.
Width of Entrance on bottom	77 „	53 „	88 „
Water on Blocks at Spring Tide	26 „	24 „	44 „

PATENT SLIP—Capable of lifting vessels up to 1,000 tons gross.
Two Floating Cranes of 60 and 30 tons each, besides 150 tons Giant Cranes.

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:—"DOCK," KOBE.
FLOATING DOCKS.

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Lifting Power	7,000 tons.	12,000 tons.
Max. Length of Ship taken in	460 feet.	580 feet.
Max. Breadth of Ship taken in	58 „	6 „
Max. Draft of Ship taken in	22 „	26 „

HIKOSHIMA WORKS (Near Shimonoseki).

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:—"DOCK," SHIMONOSEKI.
GRAVING DOCK.

Length on Keel Blocks	388 feet 0 inch.
Breadth at Entrance on bottom	56 „ 0 „
Depth of Water on Blocks at Spring Tide	25 „ 7 „

Floating Crane capable of lifting 20 tons weight.

THE NAGASAKI, KOBE AND HIKOSHIMA DOCKYARDS are closely connected with each other, enabling them to co-operate in the prompt execution of work and to suit the convenience of customers.

Any Orders will be promptly attended to and Estimates sent on application.

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JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the following revised passage FARES between HONGKONG and CANTON will come into force on 26th March, 1918:—

	DAYBOATS	NIGHTBOATS
Saloon, Single	$ 5.00	$ 7.00
Return	8.00	12.00
3rd Class, Single	2.00	1.80
Deck	1.00	.90

In addition to the above, for the convenience of the travelling Public, a Special 1st Class Return Ticket at Hongkong Currency $11.00 and Chinese Currency $11.80 available one way by Railway and the other by the Company's vessels, will also be issued.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

HONGKONG TO CANTON.	CANTON TO HONGKONG.
TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1918.	
8 a.m. "HONAM"	8 a.m. "HEUNGSHAN"
10 p.m. "FATSHAN"	4.30 p.m. "KINSHAN"
WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1918.	
8 a.m. "HEUNGSHAN"	8 a.m. "HONAM"
10 p.m. "KINSHAN"	4.00 p.m. "FATSHAN"
THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1918.	
8 a.m. "HONAM"	8 a.m. "HEUNGSHAN"
10 p.m. "FATSHAN"	10 p.m. "KINSHAN"

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

Sailings:—s.s. "SUI AN" to Macao daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays 9 a.m.)
s.s. "SUI TAI" to Macao daily at 2 p.m. (Sundays 1 p.m.)
s.s. "SUI TAI" from Macao daily at 7.30 a.m.
s.s. "SUI AN" from Macao daily at 2 p.m. (Sundays 3 p.m.)

Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, Hotel Mansions, or from Messrs. THOS. COOK & SON, Booking Agents, Hongkong.

[1451

THE SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE, HONGKONG.

WAR BOND DRAWING

3 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 3

QUESTION A.—How many tickets have you purchased or how many are you interested in?	ANSWER A.—99.
QUESTION B.—Is the winning number amongst them?	ANSWER B.—Of course!
QUESTION C.—If so what are you going to do with the proceeds?	ANSWER C.—Give 1/3rd to Charity and pouch the balance.

The foregoing are reasonable answers to the questions, but you may have some better ones; if so, please submit them to "War Bond Answers," Post Office Box No. 351, Hongkong, who will give judgment thereon, and sender of the best answers will receive TWO WAR BOND TICKETS AND 5 TOMBOLA SPILLS. Any number of alternative answers may be sent in, but winner will be required to produce a War Bond Ticket already purchased for each answer submitted. All alternative answers to be sent in by the 23rd of April. They may be in comic, poetic or tragic vein.

Judging of answers will be made by the St. George's Day Publicity Committee.

TICKETS are on sale at Banks, Clubs, Hotels, Leading Stores, and the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association, care of The Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.

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HOTELS

THE

HONGKONG HOTEL AND GRILL ROOM.

J. H. TAGGART,
Manager.
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CENTRAL LOCATION.

ELECTRIC LIFTS AND LIGHTING.
TELEPHONE ON EACH FLOOR.
HOTEL LAUNCH MEETS ALL STEAMERS.
Telephone No. 373.
Tel. Address: "VICTORIA."
J. W. HELL,
Manager.
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THE

PEAK HOTEL.

1,500 Feet above sea level.

15 Minutes from landing stage.

Under the management of

MRS. BLAIR.

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THE

VICTORIA HOTEL, CANTON.

Situated on the British Concession, Shameen.

The only European Hotel in Canton.

Guides and Chairs provided.

Every information and special attention given to Tourists.

Reasonable Rates.

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(MITSUBISHI Co.)

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GLASGOW—Messrs. A. B. BROWN, MACFARLANE & Co., LTD.

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FRENCH LESSONS

G. MOUSSION,

15, MORRISON HILL ROAD.

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INTIMATIONS

NEW MODEL WEBER PIANOS

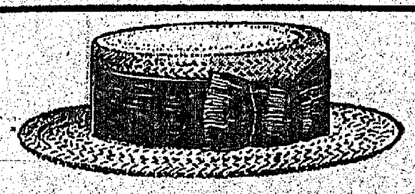
Artistic in finish, and combine perfection of touch with unequalled quality of tone.

15% DISCOUNT ALLOWED FOR CASH.

MOUTRIE'S

SOLE AGENTS. [26-2

HENRY HEATH HATS



Are distinctive in style and quality.

A "Heath" Straw Hat affords its wearer a pleasing sense of confidence in his appearance.

NEWEST SHAPES NOW SHOWING AT

MACKINTOSH & CO., LTD.,

Mens Wear Specialists,

16, DES VŒUX ROAD. Telephone 29. [169

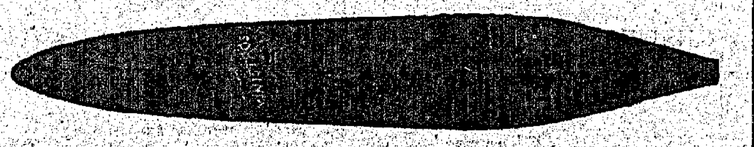
LA MINERVA

CIGAR FACTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1863.

MINISTROS CIGARS.

in boxes of 25.



The great care exercised in the choice of each single leaf makes these Cigars beyond all doubt the most perfect ever produced.

$4 per box duty paid.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,

AGENTS IN HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA. [1361

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.

U.S. MAIL LINE.

OPERATING THE NEW FIRST-CLASS STEAMERS "ECUADOR," "VENEUZELA" AND "COLOMBIA," 14,000 tons each.

HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO,

VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU.

THE SUNSHINE BELT.

THE MOST COMFORTABLE ROUTE TO AMERICA AND EUROPE.

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG at Noon.

S.S. "VENEZUELA" ... ... Apr. 24th.
S.S. "ECUADOR" ... ... May 22nd.
S.S. "COLOMBIA" ... ... June 19th.

These Steamers have the most modern equipment, including Overhead Electric Fans and Electric Lighting. ALL LOWER BERTHS and large comfortable staterooms (all single and two berths only).

The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our first consideration.

Special care is given to the Cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be surpassed.

Tickets are interchangeable with the TOYO KISEN KAISHA and the CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES, LTD.

For further information, rates, literature, schedules, etc., apply to Telephone 141. COMPANY'S OFFICE in Alexandra Buildings, Chater Road 8

THE RACECOURSE DISASTER.

ADDRESSES TO THE JURY.

MR. BOWLEY'S PRESENTATION OF THE CASE ON BEHALF OF THE CONTRACTOR.

THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

The enquiry into the Race Course disaster was resumed at the Magistracy yesterday afternoon in order that the solicitors appearing might address the jury on behalf of their clients.

THE CROWN SOLICITOR.

The Crown Solicitor, who has been assisting at the enquiry under instructions from the Government, addressing the Coroner, said the evidence having been concluded, and having regard to the position which he held in the inquiry, which was merely to render assistance in collecting evidence and so forth, he felt it hardly necessary for him to sum up the evidence which his worship would have to put before the jury at the conclusion of the proceedings. If there was any subject, after the other gentlemen had spoken, upon which it was desired that he should address the jury and they would let him know he would be very pleased to do so.

MR. F. B. L. BOWLEY.

Addressing the Court, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley said:—In his opening remarks the Attorney-General informed you that technically you are here to enquire into the cause of the death of a single person, but he reminded you that over 600 persons had lost their lives in the same disaster. He also invited you to criticise any Government departments concerned, and to advise the Government as to measures to be adopted in the future. The scope of this enquiry is, therefore, much wider than an ordinary inquest, and as my clients, the matshed contractors, are not only involved in the disaster, but are interested in establishing the fact that with proper precautions matsheds can be rendered reasonably safe, I propose in my remarks to you to allow myself more latitude than if I were merely defending them from a possible criminal charge.

But the scope of this enquiry has certain limits beyond which neither the Government nor the Attorney-General can authorise you to go. You are not authorised to enquire into the *civil* liabilities of the parties implicated whether such liabilities arise out of their contractual relationships, or from any tortious act or neglect on their parts; therefore, I do not propose to discuss the question of the *civil* liability of any person or department; those questions may hereafter be discussed in another place, and it would not be proper for this tribunal to express any opinion upon them.

It is your duty to find the cause of death, and if you were satisfied that there had been criminal negligence on the part of any person or persons, and that such criminal negligence was the immediate cause of death, you could bring in a verdict of manslaughter upon which that person or persons would be committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

Such a verdict is a very serious matter and should only be returned if you are satisfied upon positive legal evidence of the criminal negligence. Owing to the enlargement of the scope of the enquiry, a great many statements have been made which would not be admissible in a Court of Law, however useful they may be to you in pronouncing that criticism which you have been invited to pronounce. In arriving at a verdict, therefore, you should discard all theoretical and hearsay evidence, and consider only those facts which have been properly proved before you, but you may add to your verdict in a rider any expression of opinion with reference to any matter connected with the disaster provided you do not encroach upon the province of the Civil Law Courts.

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE.

A very clear summary of the Law of Criminal Negligence is to be found in Halsbury's "Laws of England" under the title Criminal Law; pp. 1182. It is as follows:—

"A person upon whom the law imposes any duty, or who has taken upon himself any duty, tending to the preservation of life, and who grossly neglects to perform that duty or performs it with gross negligence and thereby causes the death of another person, is guilty of manslaughter. What amount of negligence is to be regarded as gross is a question of degree for the jury, depending on the circumstances of each particular case. The law does not require the utmost caution that can be used; it is sufficient if reasonable precaution, and what is usual and ordinary in such cases, be taken.

To render such a person guilty of manslaughter the negligence must have been the direct and immediate cause of the death, and there must have been personal misconduct or personal negligence on the part of the accused; he is not responsible, criminally, if the death was directly caused in his absence by the negligence of his servants or others.

"It is no defence that the death was caused by the negligence of others as well as of the prisoner; if death be occasioned by the act or default of several they are all guilty of manslaughter; but if the particular negligence imputed to the prisoner was not the proximate and efficient cause of the death, he cannot be convicted."

Now the persons upon whom a duty was imposed, or who took upon themselves a duty in connection with the preservation of the lives of the visitors to the matsheds may be divided into three groups:—

(a) the Government and its officers,
(b) the Lessees and their assistants,
(c) the Contractors and their *employés*.

THE GOVERNMENT.

Now I submit that the Government only exists for the benefit of the public, whose servants it is, and the special departments concerned with the safety of the public in Hongkong:—

(1) The Public Works Department, which includes the Building and Water Authorities,

(2) The Police Department, which includes the Fire Brigade.

It is obviously the duty of the Public Works Department to provide as far as possible for the safety and convenience of the public and for the preservation of the property of the public; whilst it is the duty of the Police and Fire Brigade to endeavour to protect the persons and property of the public from the malicious or careless acts of individuals.

My clients as members of the public were entitled, I submit, to look to these two departments for reasonable advice and guidance in the design and construction of the matsheds, and for protection of their property from improper use, malicious injury, or damage by fire.

Now in what way did these two department discharge their duties?

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Take first the Public Works Department. I shall show you that the Public Works Department had absolute control over the whole of the details of the letting of the sites and the arrangement, construction, and use of these matsheds.

The Director of Public Works has threefold authority, and consequently threefold responsibility in this matter.

First, as Custodian of Crown Land in general, and of the Wongneichung Recreation Ground in particular.

Secondly, as Building Authority.

Thirdly, as Water Authority.

First: The matsheds were built on land which is the property of the Crown, but has for many years been dedicated to the public for recreation. The Director of Public Works is entrusted with the preservation of this ground, and no building of any sort can be erected there without his consent. He is under no obligation to grant his consent at all, and if he gives his consent he can attach any conditions or restrictions which he may consider advisable.

Secondly: No matshed of any sort can be erected in the Colony without the consent of the Building Authority under Sec. 209 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. Here I should like to digress for a moment and point out that although, strictly speaking, a matshed is a "building" within the Ordinance, it is quite clear that it was never intended that the provisions as to the deposit of plans, etc., should apply to matsheds. The latter have a little code of their own consisting of Sec. 209 and the regulations in Schedule H. The Building Authority has power to relax some of these conditions.

Thirdly: As Water Authority the Director of Public Works has control of the water-supply, including the fire service. He must have known that the water-supply at the Happy Valley in its normal condition was absolutely inadequate to extinguish any fire, and he might have taken steps either to increase that supply or, at least, to have warned the Fire Brigade of its defects, so that the latter might have gone at once to the sea for its supply instead of wasting time in trying to pump water out of a 3-inch pipe.

THE CONDITIONS.

Now the only conditions that the Director of Public Works in his threefold capacity made with regard to these matsheds were not for the safety of the public, or the guidance or assistance of the lessees or contractors, but rather the reverse. For example, by insisting on a gangway and fence at the back he obstructed free access to the sheds and deprived the contractors of the right to use raking struts at the back of the row, and by allowing the sheds to be within 50 yards of the Golf Club-house and other buildings he increased the risk of fire.

No provisions were made with regard to the height of the sheds, the numbers to be accommodated, the position or size of the exits, staircases or gangways, or the use of the sheds (except a futile condition about gambling, which it was not intended to enforce), no precaution whatever was taken against fire, and no step was taken either to improve the water supply or inform the Fire Brigade.

The excuse is put forward that the same thing had been going on for some 40 years, but, gentlemen, many things have happened in those 40 years, and within the last 20 years there have been a number of disastrous collapses and fatal fires in this Colony to remind the authorities of their duty to protect the public.

The questions of overcrowding and precautions against fire, which are of vital importance to my clients, are as old as Noah's Ark—the first building of which we have a record—and these questions have been considered by the authorities here quite recently in framing regulations for theatres and places of public entertainment.

The question of exits and gangways has been similarly reconsidered and should be quite fresh in the minds of the authorities.

No security was taken for the due performance by the lessees of the conditions of the letting; the lessees were not even required to sign their names or to give their individual names; the auctioneer accepted syndicate names, and could not tell us who the lessees actually were. He thought his compradore knew. Incidentally, this casual method of letting made it impossible in many cases to enforce the penalty provided by clause 6 of Schedule H, as you cannot convict a syndicate as such.

It was a condition of the letting that if the Police objected to any lessees his right might be cancelled, but, as the names of the lessees were never communicated to the Police, this condition was as futile as that against gambling.

Having let the sites in this most unsatisfactory way, and enriched the Treasury to the extent of some $14,000—the Government always takes good care of that part of the business—the next duty of the Public Works Department was to inspect the matsheds during and after construction. This duty devolved upon the Building Authority, whose staff was specially strengthened in 1906 in view of the collapses which had occurred before that date, and in order to obviate as far as possible such occurrences in future.

Now I have no complaint to make against the Inspector. We are told that he is a man of practical experience, and we know that he had no data (except his experience) to go upon; he had no instructions as to numbers to be accommodated, position or size of exits, or fire precautions. But the fact that he inspected and passed the buildings without a single objection or comment must have a considerable effect on my clients' position, as it lulled them to a sense of security. If the Government Inspector was satisfied, why should not they be so also?

It would no doubt have been a wise precaution if further inspections had been made on Monday and Tuesday mornings, as the lessees may have made alterations; they certainly introduced furniture and other weighty objects such as cash sweep cylinders, and they installed fires and made arrangements for cooking. Also, the crowd on Monday might easily have either carelessly or maliciously injured the structures. Seeing that the Government received $14,000 for the letting of the sites, and that it was known that the public to an unknown number were using the sheds, it seems hardly too much to ask for a daily inspection by the Surveyor in whose district the sheds were.

Before leaving the Building Authority I should like to refer to the question of tests. It appears that during the 70 years of British Government in this Colony no tests have been made either of the materials of matsheds, or of the load which they can carry. Professor Middleton Smith and others have pointed out the difficulties of material tests, but I imagine they were not insuperable, whilst the dead-load test might easily have been made and the live-load calculated, approximately at least, from it.

I have a few remarks to make about the Water Authority and then I will pass from the Public Works Department to the Police. The three-inch pipe was 20 years old—a fact which cannot have improved it. It serves not only the Golf Club and Jockey Club but, with the assistance of a 4-inch pipe, it serves Wongneichung Village and the supply which is pumped up by electric motor to Broadwood Road. All these factors (which were known to the Water Authority) must have tended to weaken the pressure on the fire hydrants. The Water Authority told us that fire hydrants were placed, not where the Fire Brigade wanted them, but where the Water Authority thought they should be placed, which seems rather a curious arrangement. He was not sure whether the diameter of the pipe was indicated at or near the hydrant, nor did he know whether the Fire Brigade had a map showing the position and size of the hydrants—two rather obvious precautions. He detailed the system of telephones and the posting of turn-cocks in the different districts, but he could not assure us that those arrangements had been communicated to the Fire Brigade. It appears that they were not, as the Water Authority's office was not rung up, and the district turn-cock, instead of closing the valves to the East and increasing the pressure near the fire, seems to have been a mere spectator.

THE POLICE.

Now, gentlemen, I submit that it is obviously the duty of the Police to take steps for the regulation of a race crowd, and for the protection of persons and property in or near a public Racecourse. It is well-known that horse-racing attracts all sorts and conditions of men, from the King to the card-sharper, and from the peer to the pick-pocket, and when (as in this case) there is the added attraction of unlimited gambling, and the admitted fact that there are many bad characters in the Colony, the duty of the Police is intensified.

As soon as the races commenced my clients were entitled to a reasonable share of that protection which the Police were bound to give to property at the Racecourse.

Now it is clear that the Regular Police left the matsheds severely alone. Chief Inspector Kerr seemed to consider them outside the scope of the duty of himself and his men; he stated that none of them went inside the enclosure formed by the matsheds, the Golf Club, and the iron railings connecting the two. He was engaged in regulating the traffic in the public roads, and no doubt, he was fully occupied.

The matsheds and their environment were left to the Detective Force and the District Watchmen. Inspector Watt has told us how his men were posted, and it appears that there were only two Chinese detectives on duty for the range of matsheds, as those privately engaged in Mr. Blake's shed can hardly be reckoned. Two men in plain clothes in a crowd of this sort could not possibly see all that was going on, even with the help of two District Watchmen. It is noticeable that no members of the Police Reserve were called upon for duty at any part of the Racecourse, if such a call had been made, no doubt they would have responded to it with their usual alacrity and efficiency.

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Next I come to the question of precautions against fire, and this appears to me the most serious question of all. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade frankly admits that no precautions of any kind whatever were taken. As an excuse for the absence of precautions he puts forward the pleas of (1) "Olo" Custom, (2) that nobody asked for them, and (3) that any precautions that could have been taken would have been practically useless, as he says that it is impossible to stop a matshed fire. In the latter theory he is supported by a number of members of the Fire Brigade, both regulars and volunteers.

Now, if it was really the belief of the Fire Brigade that a matshed fire could not be stopped it seems to me that it was the obvious duty of any member of that Brigade and of any officer of the police who noticed that cooking was going on in the matsheds to take immediate steps towards stopping that most dangerous practice. A report to the Captain Superintendent of Police and a warning from him to the lessees would probably have been sufficient. It is no excuse to say that there was a rule against cooking, as, in cases of imminent danger, the police should act at once for the public safety, and it can hardly be supposed that such a warning would have been disregarded.

I think you will agree with me that if the heads of the Police were ignorant of the existence of cooking, all those members of the force who, knowing the fact, failed to report it grievously neglected a duty which they owed to the public in general, and to my clients amongst others.

But I do not think the theory that precautions are useless is to be taken literally; it has been admitted by several witnesses of experience that buckets of water in the sheds might have been of great value, and that a hose laid in position and full of water kept in readiness might have subdued the fire in its initial stage; and that view is supported by more than one independent witness. Now there was no reason why these two very obvious and simple precautions should not have been taken.

"Olo custom" is no excuse, particularly in view of the fact that the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade has to see every day that similar precautions are taken in theatres, and other places of public entertainment, permanent and temporary, European and Chinese.

The posting of a despatch-box with a couple of firemen at the Golf Club would not have seriously weakened the Brigade, and a temporary connection might have been made with the hydrant by the Monument, under the road, so as not to block the traffic. Sufficient pressure for one hose might have been kept up by partially closing the valves as described by the Water Authority.

The members of the Fire Brigade, who undertake a very arduous and perilous duty, were commendably prompt in coming into action, especially the officer who fetched a despatch-box in a motor-car from No. 1 Station, but they seem to have been lacking either in information or direction in the use of their appliances.

If they had known, as they should have done, that the hydrant by the Monument was served by a 3-inch pipe only they would hardly have disconnected the branch and connected the motor-pump to that supply. If they had realised, as they might have done, that the fresh water supply in the neighbourhood was quite inadequate for the motor-pump they would have called for the water-float at once. As it was, the float did not arrive until after 3.45, and was not in action until 4 o'clock—one hour after the outbreak.

Here I should like to remark that there seems to be no adequate reason why the water-float should not be in direct telephonic communication with the Fire Station, nor why, under the circumstances of this case, the float should not have been lying with steam up at Observation Wharf, whence she could have very quickly steamed to any point in the Harbour.

If all or any of these precautions had been taken it is quite possible that, even if the fire were not quenched in its initial stages, the work of rescue might have been much facilitated by the use of one or more strong jets of water, and the person concerning whose death you are enquiring might, for all we know, have been saved, with many others.

(Continued on page 7.)

HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES.

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong War Charities was held yesterday evening at the City Hall. H.E. the Governor presided, and others present included:—The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., the Hon. Mr. D. Landale, the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. N. J. Stabb, Mr. H. W. Looker, the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax (Hon. Secretary), Mr. H. C. Sandford, the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Messrs. W. L. Pattenden, S. H. Dodwell, E. V. D. Parr, A. R. Lowe, A. Silva-Netto, Chan Kai-ming, Ng Hon-tsze, Professors Middleton Smith and J. D. Wright, and the Rev. J. Kirk Maconachie.

HON. MR. E. H. SHARP, K.C.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. SHARP said that the present Executive Committee had been responsible for the distribution of the Fund for more than two years. That was to say, since the beginning of January, 1916, when the Prince of Wales' Fund was closed. He had now to submit their report and statement of accounts, which were already in their hands, covering the whole period up to the 15th of last month. As to the receipts, the accounts showed that altogether a total of $608,000, or, practically, seven lakhs, had been raised during that period for War Charities and distributed among some sixty objects connected with the war, excepting a balance in the bank in London and Hongkong. In addition to that total, Sir Paul Chater was making his yearly collection amongst the several companies and firms. It was not finished yet, but so far he had collected $165,000, and hoped to get two lakhs, as compared with the $145,000 from the same source last year. For that splendid collection they were not only indebted to the traditional generosity of Hongkong firms, but also to the efforts of Sir Paul Chater. (Hear, hear.) The Fund would soon, therefore, reach the figure of a million dollars. The Executive Committee, in distributing the money, had adopted three methods. First, direct allocations had been made by the Committee. The great bulk of the money had been dealt with in that way. Secondly, there was the allocation to minor but none the less useful funds, and the distribution in this case had been left to the discretion of Mr. Murray Stewart. The third method was that some subscriptions had been ear-marked for particular objects by the individual givers. This was a comparatively small class, and would explain the smaller and uneven amounts appearing in the statement of accounts. At this distance, especially with the present slow and irregular mails, it was impossible to get into touch with the most necessary and deserving objects, and Mr. Stewart had done that for them and had done it very well. (Applause.) He had distributed altogether between two and three thousand pounds. Mr. Stewart had also collected a great deal of information concerning a number of funds, etc. He had, at first had the assistance of Dr. Atkinson, but since the latter's death he had been doing the work alone. Mr. Stewart's present method of distribution, he thought, was well expressed in a letter which had been just received from him stating that times for forming new charities had passed and therefore he had distributed the funds confided to his care amongst old friends whose needs he knew something about. He (the speaker) thought that they would all say Mr. Stewart's selections were all that could be desired. He certainly did not spare himself any trouble. For example, in the distribution of gifts in kind appearing in the account consisting mainly of tobacco and cigars he had made them all up into small parcels for each man and sent them round to carefully chosen hospitals. That entailed a great deal of labour, and the thanks of the committee were due to Mr. Stewart for what he had done. (Applause.) Now, with regard to the Committee's direct allocations. Their principal object had been to distribute, as widely as possible, to useful objects and to select those Funds for help which were doing the most immediate and practical good as distinguished from those which were making provision for after the war. Mr. Stewart's remarks applied to the Executive Committee. The Committee had endeavoured to find the best war charities and help them and the statement of accounts showed a fairly comprehensive list. Details of the allocation had been regularly published in the press and therefore only the principal items in the statement of accounts needed any explanation. Their local claims, of course, ranked first. They would find an item in that account—material for working parties—which amounted to something over $100,000. The Hongkong working parties were a branch of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild with Lady May as President and Mrs. Stabb as Vice-President. The working parties consisted of practically all the ladies of the Colony, whose indefatigable labours had produced enormous quantities of useful articles which had been sent to the various Fronts and hospitals. Letters of thanks which had been received went to prove how invaluable those articles were. A very important matter was the shipment of those articles, and they had to thank the shipping companies, especially the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company and Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for their generosity in sending those articles free of charge. (Hear, hear.) As regards the Royal Flying Corps Hospital, that hospital had been doing excellent work and they had to contribute £200 a month to support the Hongkong ward which was started two years ago and which they had undertaken to maintain until the end of the war. They had also been giving, although not under promise to continue, £1,000 a year to the general funds of the hospital. The item British Red Cross Fund, over £24,000, was the largest in the accounts and the amount was due to the "Our Day" collection. They did not add to that amount except what was specially ear-marked. The last "Our Day" they raised over £16,000, as against £5,000 in the "Our Day" of 1916. (Hear, hear.) This was the largest sum yet produced by any "Day" effort, but it was hoped that a St. George's Day collection would beat it. The next big item was the Prisoners of War Fund, to which over £5,000 had been given. The various Prisoners' of War arrangements in England at first overlapped, but they were now well organised under a Central Committee. Mr. Hallifax had received hundreds of post-cards from war prisoners, showing that without these parcels they would have been short of absolutely necessary food. There was only one other item which he thought he need refer to—the French Red Cross, to which they had given something over £2,300. The remaining items spoke for themselves. The Executive Committee wished they were able to give more to the French Red Cross. The apportioning of the balance money was a problem which the Executive Committee had to solve as best it could. They would notice in the accounts there were comparatively few funds for sailors, either for the Navy or for the Merchant Service, which had also played so splendid a part in the war. To co-ordinate the few large and many small funds which previously existed in England King George's Fund for Sailors had been organized. The first report of that Fund had lately been published in the local Press and showed that the purpose was to help the various good institutions for the benefit of sailors in proportion to their needs. A substantial contribution from the Hongkong Fund would doubtless be made to it with the knowledge that the contribution would be used well and promptly. Finally, several members of the Committee had already gone, or were going, away. Mr. Anton had gone, and he (the speaker) would be leaving shortly, under medical advice and would, therefore, be unable to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. The General Committee would be asked to elect an Executive Committee. The present Executive Committee felt that it was time that fresh blood was introduced into it. The speaker then announced that he would be glad to answer any questions.

HON. MR. P. H. HOLYOAK.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK, in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said he wished to endorse the remarks which had been made by Mr. Sharp as regards the sum which had been collected in the Colony. They might all well be proud of having done in some small measure their part thus far. He wished, however, to put before them the plea that the greatest call still lay before them. The comparative shelter and safety which was found in Hongkong made all the greater the debt of gratitude which they owed to those who were fighting that bloody battle for the British nation. (Applause.) Realising the tremendous nature of the conflict which was being waged on French soil they ought to be and were desirous of putting forward an even greater effort than before as some small recognition of the sacrifices made by the troops who were fighting on their behalf because they would not take part in the fighting themselves, and also they were desirous of doing more because they were a small part of the great Empire whose one wish was to bring the war to a successful issue be the cost what it might. (Hear, hear.) Reference had been made to the work which had been done by the General Committee and he thought that no tribute paid could be too high to the steady, self-sacrificing work which had been carried on by the Committee of that Society. The Vice-President had made reference to the help rendered by various shipping firms, but he had overlooked Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., who had assisted them from time to time in various ways. He was sure it was an oversight on the previous speaker's part. Reference had also been made to the St. George's Society, and he was sure he was voicing the sentiments of the St. George's Committee when he said that they wished the funds to be centralized. In all probability the funds realised on St. George's Day would be large. They would have been larger but for the curtailment of a part of the programme owing to the unfortunate visitation of cerebro-spinal meningitis. They desired that the money should be centralized in one fund and that it should be devoted to the common cause. (Applause.)

The motion was carried unanimously.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—The principal object of this meeting is to enlarge the General Committee which should include representatives of all sections of the British Community, and this Committee should be kept up to date by the addition from time to time of further members in order to keep pace with the changes in the community. There are certain districts and institutions in the Colony which are not at present represented. To save time I will read to you the names of existing members of the General Committee. It is open to any of you to suggest additional names, but, again to save time, I will read to you additions which I think might be made on general grounds. The names are: S. H. Dodwell, E. M. Dyer, T. Hough, White, Adamson, R. Hancock, E. Ormiston, Ross Thompson, E. V. D. Parr, and Montagu Ede, and the following representatives of institutions and for Kowloon: Sir Charles Elliot, for the University; Mr. J. W. Graham to represent Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company; Dr. Forsyth, to represent Kowloon; Mr. Reid to represent Taikoo Dockyard; The Bishop to represent the Church; Mr. Arculli, to represent the Indian Community; and Messrs. Hay, Sutherland and Leefe to represent the histrionic art, which has rendered such valuable services to the Fund. As regards a representative for the Press, the Press is a delicate institution to be tampered with, so I leave it to them to nominate their representative. We should also very much like to have a representative of St. George's Society and one from St. Andrew's Society. The object of having a thoroughly representative General Committee is to co-ordinate the special efforts that are made and to prevent wasteful overlapping and the interference with monthly subscriptions. I suggest that as far as special efforts are concerned they should be limited to the Four Days that have already been established, namely, "Our Day," "St. George's Day," Heather Day," and possibly "Kowloon Day" which was inaugurated for the first time, I think, on the first day of this year. As I have said on many occasions, what the Executive Committee specially desire is a strong monthly subscription list, which now only reaches 3,000 dollars at the most, of which 1,000 dollars comes from one firm and two individual subscribers. It is suggested that the representatives on the General Committee of the different sections of the community might assist in promoting monthly subscriptions. I take this opportunity of welcoming the Chapter that has been formed in the Colony of the American Red Cross Society. In the past few weeks we have learned to appreciate to the full what it is to have America with us in this war. In conclusion I wish on your behalf to express our sorrow at the untimely demise of Dr. Atkinson and our appreciation of the work which he and Mr. Murray Stewart have done for us in London.

The following names were then added to the General Committee: Sir Charles Eliot, Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, R. M. Dyer, T. Hough, P. H. White, Adamson, R. Hancock, E. Ormiston, E. Thompson, Sinclair, E. V. D. Parr, Montagu Ede, J. W. Graham, Mr. Reid, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lander, Dr. Forsyth, Messrs. Arculli, Hay, Sutherland, Leefe, and A. W. Smith.

His Excellency wished to know whether anyone had any suggestions to make or wished to discuss any points *re* the collection of money. With regard to the addition of several Chinese names on the Committee His Excellency said they would be formed into a Sub-Committee for the collection of funds. The Committee was limited to British subjects. They were grateful to the Chinese gentlemen for their services.

The next business was the election of the Executive Committee. His Excellency said there was more work to do than there had been in the past. He suggested the following:—The Chairman; The Treasurer, Mr. N. J. Stabb; Secretary, Mr. E. R. Hallifax; Committee, Rev. J. Kirk Maconachie, Mr. E. M. Dyer, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak. These gentlemen would make a useful working Committee. Mr. Sharp was going away and so they had to elect a new Chairman. He proposed the name of the Hon. Mr. D. Landale as Chairman. As regards an assistant Treasurer, Mr. H. C. Sandford had helped Mr. Stabb a lot during the past year, and His Excellency suggested that he be appointed.

There being no further business the meeting terminated.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.S.R.

SEARCH SUPERVISORS.

1. Supervisors must report in pairs to the Inspector on Duty punctually 15 minutes before the hour at which they are required to be on duty on the Wharves.
2. The following instruction is to be entered opposite page 10 of the book of Instructions:—
   The export of butter and margarine (fresh tinned), whether as cargo or ship's stores, is prohibited except under permit from the I. and E. Office.
   Supervisors will see to the enforcement of this order.
3. Export Supervisors are to remain on duty until the ship being searched leaves the Wharf, notwithstanding that it may leave late and so involve a longer shift of duty. If a ship leaves early they may at once report off.
4. All applications for leave by, and all disciplinary reports concerning, Chinese Search Supervisors are to be sent to Inspector Mow Fung, and not to the O.C. No. 3 Company.

MARATHON RACE.

Staff Inspector Wildin calls for the assistance of members of the Police Reserve, who have bicycles, in connection with the above race, which will be run on Saturday, the 20th instant, and not the 13th. Will these kindly meet him at Headquarters Club on Wednesday, April 10th, at 5.30 p.m.

STRENGTH.

Trooper 774 French is permitted to resign on leaving for active service.

P.-c. 504 Baptista is invalided out.

P.-c. 862 Herbert is permitted to resign as from 25th instant on leaving the Colony.

By Order,
T. F. HOUGH,
A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.

Hongkong, April 8th, 1918.

THE ALSACE QUESTION.

The German Governor of Strasburg has posted everywhere a proclamation stating that Alsace-Lorraine is German, and therefore the principle of self-determination cannot be recognised in respect of these provinces.

If the good were only clever,
And the clever were only good,
The world would be better than ever
We thought it possibly could.

But oh! it is seldom or never
That things happen just as they should,
The good are so harsh to the clever,
The clever so rude to the good.

Other Local News will be found on Page 6.

INTIMATIONS.

SUMMER UNDERWEAR

AN ALLY
FOR COOLNESS
"B.V.D."
LOOSE-FITTING
KNEE-LENGTH DRAWERS
AND
COAT-CUT UNDERSHIRTS,
AS ILLUSTRATED.
$1.25 and upwards the garments.

WE STOCK ALSO ALL SIZES
IN INDIA GAUZE, CELLULAR, SILKETTE, WOOL, ETC.

LANE, CRAWFORD
AND COMPANY.

15

G-E EDISON LAMPS
"THE NEW SUN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD."
ALL SIZES STOCKED.
SOLD BY ELECTRICAL DEALERS.
ANDERSEN, MEYER & CO.,
SOLE AGENTS FOR
General Electric Co. of New York.
Hotel Mansions. Telephone 1990.

1185

Wm. Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 346

BE COOL
By wearing our loose fitting
SUMMER UNDERWEAR.

We have now a large assortment including
"FLEXINET" "SOFTESTNET"
"INDIAN GAUZE" "B.V.D."
INSPECTION INVITED. [20

CABLES: "FETAGE" Branches: NEW YORK, MONTREAL.
DONIGER & COMPANY,
9, Ichome, Yurokucho, Kojimachi-ku,
TOKYO, JAPAN.
CONTRACTORS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS,
Manufacturers and Exporters
of
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHEMICAL GLASS WARE
AND APPARATUS, DRUG SUNDRIES,
&c., &c.
DESIRE REPRESENTATION
Write for Catalogue Price List and Full Particulars.
Our Many Years of Experience and Concentration Insures Technically Correct Instruments.

[1574

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET.

RESIDENTIAL FLAT in Prince's Building.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., LTD.
1875

TO LET.

NO. 3, CANTON VILLAS, Kowloon.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., LTD.
1676

THE STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LTD.

APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of this Company to issue to WALTER DOUGLAS GRAHAM deceased a Duplicate Certificate or Certificates in lieu thereof upon the statement that the Original Certificate No. 208 for 100 Shares numbered 901 to 1000 and dated 22nd November, 1906, has been LOST or DESTROYED, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 30 days from the date hereof no claims or representation in respect of such Original Certificate is made to the Directors they will proceed to deal with such application for a Certificate.
C. B. BROWN,
Secretary.
Dated 8th day of April, 1918.
[1877

THE DAIRY FARM CO., LTD.

APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of this Company to issue to WALTER DOUGLAS GRAHAM of Hongkong (deceased) a duplicate Certificate or Certificates in lieu thereof upon the statement that the Original Certificate No. 1909 for Shares numbered 28775 28834 and dated 11th January, 1905, has been LOST or DESTROYED, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 30 days from the date hereof no claims or representation in respect of such Original Certificate is made to the Directors they will proceed to deal with such application for a Certificate.
M. MANUK,
Secretary.
Dated 4th day of April, 1918.
[1860

NOTICE.

HAVING RESUMED CHARGE of my Business carried on under the style of MESSRS. S. C. ISMAIL & Co., I, the Undersigned, hereby give Notice that from this date all cheques on Bankers, Contracts and other matters in connection with the Business of the Firm will be Signed by me.
S. C. ISMAIL.
Hongkong, 3rd April, 1918. [1857

THE COTTAGE
SOMENOS, V.I., B.C.,
CANADA.

A HIGH-CLASS English Modern School for the Daughters of Gentlemen, with preparatory Class for boys.
Principal: Miss Young; assisted by Miss Geoghegan, B.A.; and Miss M. G. Young, L.R.A.M., Asso. R.C.V., London, Eng.
Course includes Thorough English, French, Latin, Mathematics and Drawing.
Extras: Music and Painting.
Further particulars from
CHARLES GERKEN,
St. Stephen's College, Hongkong.
[1872

SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE, HONGKONG.

In aid of
WAR CHARITIES

WANTED FOR PRIZES
FOR THE
TOMBOLA

Curios, Ornaments, Jewellery, Furniture, Glass and Silver-ware, Cutlery, Vases, War Bond Tickets and Bric-a-brac of all descriptions.

WHAT CAN YOU SPARE?

Many Ladies are now collecting gifts, and intending donors may also send gifts to the Office of Messrs. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. (2nd floor) between the hours of 10 A.M. and NOON and 3 P.M. and 5 P.M.

Bulky articles will be sent for on receipt of advice addressed to:—

Hon. Secretary,
TOMBOLA
P. O. Box 94,
HONGKONG.

All gifts should be sent in on or before THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, and in the meantime everyone is asked to set aside for Prizes all superfluous articles (clothing excepted) to make the Tombola a success.

The success of the Tombola depends upon the presentation of gifts for Prizes and the sale of spills, which latter contain many prize tickets.
[1866

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

COMMODIOUS and well-fitted SHOP in Alexandra Buildings.
Apply—
SECRETARY,
A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.
[1852

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry, Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE Co., LTD.,
40, Connaught Road Central.
[900

TO LET.

OFFICES in York Buildings.
No. 1, MORETON TERRACE.,
HOUSES on Shameen, Canton.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., LTD.
[28

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., LTD.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[1273

FOR SALE.

TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 155, Peak.
Apply—
DUNCAN CLARK,
Care of LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
[1711

FOR SALE.

"GALESEND," 109, The Peak ROOMS.
Apply— C. H. GALE,
P.W.D.
[1834

WANTED.

FURNISHED HOUSE at the PEAK to rent during Summer months.
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[1850

WANTED.

STENOGRAPHER, Male or Female. State experience, salary required and references. Apply—
Box No. 100
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1817

WANTED.

BRITISH ENGINEER for Shore position. Commencing salary $200 per month, with free quarters, light, coal and medical attendance.
Apply—
Box 8,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[1871

G R

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.
Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.
Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding $50.
[58

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

SAUSAGES!

SAUSAGES!

A Variety
to suit all tastes!
OXFORD SAUSAGES.
CAMBRIDGE "
PORK "
BEEF "
LIVER "
BOLOGNA, HEAD CHEESE.
BLACK PUDDING.
WHITE "
&c., &c., &c.
[1839

FOR SALE.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS (all different)

1000 Stamps	$ 8.00	2500 Stamps	$ 50.00
1500 "	12.00	3000 "	100.00
1800 "	22.00	4000 "	175.00
2000 "	25.000		

GRACA & CO.,
No. 4, WINDHAM STREET,
HONGKONG
[1845

INTIMATION

OUR GIANT LAVENDER TALCUM

Is rapidly becoming as popular as our well-known Lavender Water. Blended with the Purest and Softest Powder, is the Sweet Fragrance of Lavender, and the Effect on the Skin is Delightfully Cooling and Soothing.

1-lb. Size Price $1.00.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
TEL. 16.
[12

BIRTH.

KINDERSLEY.—At the Peak Hospital, on 7th April, the wife of the Honble. Mr. H. C. M. KINDERSLEY (Selangor), Federated Malay States, of a son.
[1873

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOEUX ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 9TH APRIL, 1918.

A CONTRAST.

IN the world-war the unexpected has so often happened that we have ceased to speculate as to the date and place of the final struggle. All our pre-war values seem to have altered; figures as to casualties and the cost of the conflict have long ago lost their meaning. Disappointments, as is inevitable in warfare, have come to us; changes, such as we in the Far East only dimly realise, have occurred in all grades of Society "in the old country," and the people in England have undergone experiences such as they believed before 1914 to be impossible. Air-raids, bombardments, and the curtailment of individual liberty and food, have come into their lives, but have left them undaunted. For myriads of men and women the war has meant the wreckage of their dearest hopes, pain, suffering and continuous self-sacrifice. Yet there is no sign that the patience and willingness of those "in the old country" to make even greater sacrifices are exhausted. On the contrary, there never has been a more united people, firm and four square to resist the slightest compromise with the evil thing that menaces the earth. At the beginning of this year the PRIME MINISTER said, "Only the clearest, greatest and justest of causes can justify the continuance even for one day of this unspeakable agony of the nations." And in that speech, which was hailed by the Press of the Empire as a great Charter of Liberty, he explicitly stated the challenge which Democracy throws down to Autocracy. Every private letter and every newspaper which reaches us from Great Britain tells the same story. The war aims of the autocrats of Germany and those of the Anglo-Saxon democracy are still as wide asunder as the poles. Of one great fundamental fact the people in "the old country" are certain, whatever may be the uncertainties and anxieties of any particular day, week or battle. That fact is that war can be turned into peace only by the defeat of the German militarists. The root-cause of the war remains as indisputable as it was forty-three months ago, and is simply this. In the heart of Europe there is a Military Autocracy which aims at ruling the world by force. It has only one philosophy, and that no man with even elementary ideas of freedom would accept. It is summed up in the three words: "*Deutschland uber alles.*" All other explanations of the origin of the war or the reasons for the continuance of the war are but camouflage. As secondary causes we may, if we wish, blame Russian Autocracy, or armament rings, or secret diplomacy, or even the Yellow Press. Any or all of these may have had an evil influence, but they pale into insignificance beside the horrible crime of the forty years' conspiracy of Berlin.

The times are grave and they call for increased effort and sacrifice from all. Let us not forget, however, that the Germany of to-day is very different from the Germany which was so eager to spring upon Belgium and France in 1914. She finds it impossible now to disguise the fact that she is becoming more and more exhausted in men and material. The larger portion of her population is half-starved, and there is stealing into the minds of the people the little devil called doubt. The LICHNOWSKY disclosures have found their way into the German Press, and cannot be without effect upon even the most dull-witted of people. We do not suppose for a moment in Berlin the immediate result will be the same as would have been produced, in similar circumstances, in Paris or London; but we may be sure that such disclosures cannot feed the fire of war enthusiasm. It is most significant that VON JAGOW, who was Foreign Secretary in Germany during the momentous years of 1913 to 1916, has bluntly told his fellow-countrymen that he cannot adopt "the opinion, at present widely held in Germany, that England caused the war." It is not a very far step from this to acknowledging that it was caused by his own country. It is true that the Militarists in Germany still retain their authority over the people and that, despite their set-backs, they are still confident of the success of their methods. But there always have been forces in Germany running counter to the will of the Junkers, and although there was a tendency in some quarters to exaggerate their power when the militarists willed the war, it would be folly to suppose that such forces are negligible. Behind the material field of battle is the invisible conflict of ideas—Mr. CHURCHILL has called it "the war of tendencies"—and that is always shaping events. The words of LICHNOWSKY and VON JAGOW are like corks floating on the tide, and they indicate plainly that even influential statesmen in Germany foresee that the Junker dreams of world-power can never materialise. We will not venture to predict the ultimate effect of these words upon the present generation in Germany, but when some detached historian deals with this terrible conflict he will emphasise the remarkable contrast in the attitude of the British and German peoples at this moment, when the German armies have resumed the offensive. In that contrast, he will say, the people of the period saw the omens of final triumph. For the curses of "frightfulness" have flown home to roost. The German challenge startled "the old country" in 1914, but the whole Empire endorsed the bold answer which she promptly gave, and since that date it has been repeated by China and Siam and by the United States of America and the United States of Brazil. The answer will always be the same, whatever the fluctuations of the battle-front. Public opinion, which finally determines the future, has hardened all over the world against the Central Powers. In Middle Europe, on the other hand, public opinion shows signs of disintegration, and, as NAPOLEON said: "Public opinion is a power invisible, mysterious, and irresistible."

During the 24 hours of Saturday thirteen cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified in the Colony, all of them Chinese. There were eight deaths.

Hankow men have joined the ladies in bandage rolling.

According to a recent census the population of Tokio is now 2,349,830.

A prayer meeting in connection with the Hongkong Christian Union will be held in the Helena May Institute to-day, at 5.30 p.m. All Christians are invited.

The weekly religious meeting of the Helena May Institute on Tuesday afternoon at 5.30 o'clock will be conducted by Miss Pitts. The meeting is open to all women.

Mr. A. W. Grant, of Queen's College, who left Hongkong for British Columbia seriously ill, has now, we are glad to learn, nearly recovered. He expected to be in England by the end of last month.

On the 3rd instant, the Police made a haul of 814 taels of prepared opium on board the s.s. *Lokeang*. The opium was contained in nine sacks, which were discovered snugly concealed in the ventilator on top of the ship's boiler. No arrests were made.

HONGKONG POLICE FORCE.

ANNUAL INSPECTION BY H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

At the Central Police Station, yesterday evening, H. E. the Governor held his annual inspection of the Hongkong Police Force. There was a large number of spectators present, including Major-General Ventris (General Officer Commanding the Troops), the Hon. C. McI. Messer (Captain-Superintendent of Police) was in charge, with Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P. second-in-command. As His Excellency arrived the order to "present arms," was given, after which the inspection took place, the Force performing several military evolutions.

His Excellency then presented the following medals, shaking hands with each of the recipients:—

C. D. I. Murison, 2nd class medal, 22 years' service. Extra work and zeal during the war.

C. I. Kerr, 2nd class, 27 years' service. Extra work during the war.

Inspector Gordon, 3rd class, 20½ years' service. Good work in serious crime cases during the past three years.

Inspector Sim, 4th class, 20½ years' service.

Inspector Lamont, 3rd class, 19½ years' service. Ability and zeal. Work in New Territory.

Inspector Gerrard, 3rd class, 19 2/3 years' service. Good work.

Inspector Grant, 4th class, 21 years' service.

Inspector Angus, 4th class, 20½ years' service.

P.s. a83 Burchill, 4th class, 20½ years' service.

P.s. a57 McKay, 4th class, 20½ years' service. Good work in S.C.A. Department.

Jemadar Nawab Khan, 4th class, 19½ years' service. Zeal and good work.

Sergt.-Major Bhaggat Singh, 4th class, 19 years' service. Recommended by Hon. C.S.P. for very good work in New Territory.

P.s. b249 Ghanna Singh, 4th class, 20 years' service; P.s. b215 Jewan Khan, 4th class, 21 years' service; P.s. c68 Lau Kun, 4th class, 22 years' service; P.s. c156 Leung So, 3rd class, 25 years' service; P.s. c104 Li Fuk, 3rd class, 21 years' service; good work at West Point. P.s. c99 Li Wa, 3rd class, 20 years' service; ability and zeal in serious crime cases. C. C. 93 San Hing, 4th class, 21 years' service. C. C. 244 Lau Tam, 4th class, 17 years' service; five commendations for good cases. C. 457 Leung Yeung Shing, 4th class, 17 years' service; special commendation, May, 1917. C. C. 423 Tsang Ying, 4th class, 20 years' service.

SPORT.

GOLF.

LADIES' SECTION ROYAL H.K. GOLF CLUB.

The final for the Wodehouse Cups was played off at Fanling on Saturday, when Lady Rees Davies and Mrs. Maitland beat Mrs. Carlton and Mrs. Goodban by 3 up and 2 to play.

The Captain's Cup is to be played for at Happy Valley from April 22nd to 27th inclusive. Owing to the shortness of the course three-quarters of handicap only to be taken.

THE BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.

A correspondent informs us that the information supplied to us in regard to the Billiard Championship of the Colony is incorrect in several particulars. The best break (81) was made by Gunner Lord, who led shortly after the 100 mark was reached, and made two other breaks of 67 and 61 respectively. Pitt's best effort did not exceed 40. The name of the runner-up was Wong Po Hung.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held yesterday evening, at 5.30, in the club pavilion. Mr. F. Maitland presided, and there were present Major Robertson, Messrs. R. Hancock, H. A. Nisbet, M. M. Maas and P. M. Hodgson (Hon. Secretary).

The Chairman proposed the following resolution:—"That the rules of the Hongkong Cricket Club be altered so as to read as shown in the print signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of the meeting."

Mr. H. A. Nisbet seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting terminated.

LEAGUE BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.

PEARCE AND COBB THE CHAMPIONS.

GOOD FEAT BY MARLEY.

As a result of the league match on Saturday, Pearce considerably increased his aggregate, and also improved his average. He finishes the season an easy first with the splendid total of 833 runs, which gives him an average of almost 70. Muriel has fallen away during the last month, and his final average is a long way behind his club-mates, but is still an easy second.

Cobb maintains his position in the bowling list, and Dearce drops down to ninth place. Marley brought his total for the season past the 500 mark on Saturday, and holds the distinction of being the only player in the Colony this season to score 500 runs and take 50 wickets. He has actually made 515 runs and taken 60 wickets, which is a splendid all-round performance. Commander Gibson may claim to be second best all-round man, and Rumjahn's 466 runs is a very creditable performance. Only eight batsmen have made 400 runs during the season, while no fewer than ten bowlers have taken 50 wickets, which goes to show that the bowling in the Colony is superior to the batting.

One match between the Engineers and the R.G.A. remains to be decided—probably during this week—and Reakes and Cripwell may climb higher in the bowling list as a result. These two are the only players from the Military teams who hold a conspicuous place in either list.

Averages compiled to date will be found below:—

BATTING AVERAGES.

	Innings	Not out	Highest Score	Total	Average
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C.	15	3	120	823	69.41
H. E. Muriel, H.K.C.C.	15	1	80	564	40.27
Com. Gibson, Navy ...	14	2	113*	416	34.66
K.S. Macaskill, K.C.C.	10	1	70	311	34.55
J. Stalker, K.C.C. ...	16	1	115*	508	33.86
Ng Sze Kwong, C.R.C.	18	4	105*	460	32.85
G.E. Marley, U.C.C....	16	0	75	515	32.12
A. A. Claxton, K.C.C.	10	1	70	267	29 66
A. H. Rumjahn, U.C.C.	17	1	72	466	29.12
J. P. Robinson, K.C.C.	14	5	70*	233	25.88
W. H. Dixon, C.S.C.C.	14	0	72	339	23.93
Sig. Hack, Navy ...	18	1	90	400	23.53
K. Brayshay, U.C.C. ...	11	0	41	257	23.36
D.M. Goodall, C.S.C.C.	17	1	82*	360	22.50
Capt. Gray, H.K.C.C.	15	0	64	336	22.40

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	R.	W.	A.
P. H. Cobb, K.C.C.....203	557	72	7.73
E. W. Hamilton, C.S.C.C.155	433	54	8.01
Com. Gibson, Navy 170	514	59	8.71
J. Stalker, K.C.C. 109	312	35	8.91
R. E. O. Bird, C.S.C.C. ...117	371	36	10.30
G. E. Marley, U.C.C.....203	633	60	10.55
S. S. Cripwell, R.E. 137	572	54	10.59
R. Pestonji, K.C.C.....156	446	42	10.61
T. E. Pearce, H.K.C.C. ... 61	249	23	10.82
C. Q. M. S. Reakes, R.E. 137	545	50	11.12
K. Brayshay, U.C.C. 199	620	54	11.48
F. A. Redmond, U.C.C. 77	265	23	11.52
D. E. Donnelly, H.K.C.C.226	780	67	11.77
J. S. Graham, U.C.C.....307	811	66	12.28
Col. Morgan, H.K.C.C....128	508	39	13.02
R. C. Witchell, C.S.C.C. 72	280	21	13.33
Bdr. Athorne, R.G.A. 94	508	37	13.68
Gr. Baines, R.G.A. 95	310	22	14.09
Un Hew Fan, C.R.C.....233	857	60	14.27

MARATHON RACE ENTRIES.

This race will be run on Saturday, April 20th, and not on the 13th as advertised. This postponement has been made in order that the event should not clash with other fixtures previously arranged. Entries will therefore be accepted up to and including Saturday, April 13th, and should be addressed to Staff Inspector Wildin, Police Reserve Headquarters, Prince's Buildings.

The following entries have already been received:—Able Seaman Blower, R.N., Stoker Ash, R.N., P.-c. 804 V. A. Hyder, H.K.P.R., P.-c. 745 J. A. Gutierrez, H.K.P.R., Sergt. A. E. Talfourd, R.G.A., Corpl. J. Rowland, R.G.A., Bombr. J. Watson, R.G.A., Gnr. E. Taylor, R.G.A., Private A. Kirby, R.A.M.C., P.-c. 767 B. A. Hyder, H.K.P.R., G. A. Hyder, St. Joseph's College, R. R. Wood, Sanitary Inspector, Jemadar Fateh Mohd Khan, 18th Infantry, 1802 Naik Rannia Khan, 18th Infantry, 2610 Naik Abdul Ghani Khan, 18th Infantry, Drummer Rulyt Khan, 18th Infantry, Sepoy Natha Khan, 18th Infantry, L/ Naik Chieghan, 18th Infantry, and Pte. Allan Blaikley, 25th Middlesex.

THE WAR.

GERMANS PREPARING THRUST ON WEST.

PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

TURKS ACTIVE IN THE CAUCASUS.

ANGLO-JAPANESE TROOPS LAND AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

LONDON, April 8th. 12.50 a.m.

Our aeroplanes watching enemy movements reported a hostile concentration southward of the Somme. Large formations immediately went out in the rain and dropped over 500 bombs and fired 50,000 rounds on the assembled infantry.

We brought down 15 and drove down 11 enemy machines. Sixteen of ours are not yet located. Many of them doubtless were forced to land behind our lines owing to a difficulty in finding their aerodromes in the heavy rain.

The Canadian airmen did very valuable work in the present battle.

ENEMY PREPARING ANOTHER THRUST.

LONDON, April 8th. 12.05 a.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing yesterday evening, states:—Local fighting has continued at various places along the British battle-front, and there are sundry signs that the enemy is about to thrust again on a big scale.

By the recent fighting north of the Somme the enemy endeavoured to improve his positions, possibly to secure a better jumping-off place. Between Mesnil and Bucquoy the German positions are very unfavourable to artillery movement, therefore should a big push develop in this region, and only by such could a great concentric attack upon Amiens be carried out, the infantry would soon outpace the gun supports if the enemy achieved further success. So far, however, attempts have been almost entirely repulsed, invariably with very heavy losses. The attack on April 5th was carried out by four divisions in waves, having only a limited objective. Since the enemy heavily gas-shelled Auchonvillers before attacking, and as the stuff hangs for days, it is not likely he would have employed it if he had hoped to occupy the place last evening. After twice laying an intense barrage to a considerable depth the Germans attempted to advance north of Auchonvillers, but were smothered by our artillery and were unable to advance.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, April 7th.

A wireless German official report states:—We captured Pierremande and Folembray.

EARLIER CABLES.

POSITIONS RE-ESTABLISHED.

LONDON, April 7th. 12.35 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our counter-attacks yesterday successfully re-established our positions at Aveluy Wood and yielded 120 prisoners and several machine-guns.

We repulsed an attack opposite Albert.

Our artillery southward of Hebuterne last evening broke up an attempted attack.

A minor operation this morning southward of the Somme improved our position. We captured 40 prisoners.

SUCCESSFUL MINOR OPERATIONS.

LONDON, April 7th. 12.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our successful minor operations southward of the Somme this morning led to sharp local fighting. The enemy strongly counter-attacked, suffering heavily. We captured over 140 prisoners and several machine-guns.

We repulsed two attacks this morning at Bucquoy by artillery fire.

On the remainder of the battle-front the day passed more quietly.

OBVIOUS MEASURES.

ZURICH, April 7th.

The German newspapers publish notices threatening severe penalties against persons spreading alarmist rumours regarding the German casualties.

The *Mainz Volkszeitung* states that the letter service for the fighting troops is suspended indefinitely.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

THE BATTLE OF MOREUIL.

PARIS, April 7th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing yesterday, states:—In the second battle beginning on Thursday we held the enemy and repulsed him at most places, and with heavy losses, with troops entering the battle on March 25th.

The closing days of March were among the most critical of the war. The Germans had been stopped on the Oise and the Somme, but we were confronting them between Montdidier and Moreuil with a mere cordon barring the way to Amiens. Troops were railed from a sector hundreds of miles distant as fast as possible, and they engaged the enemy as soon as they were detrained. A General, carrying a carbine, with his Staff had arrived and were scouting the battlefield with only a few cavalry patrols between them and the Boche.

A Staff Major was actually killed in engaging the German mounted troops. The first reinforcements arrived on March 25th, but the main body arrived several days later. Meanwhile, the enemy was preparing for a grand attack. The moment was most critical, for on March 27th, nine miles of our line was screened only by cavalry patrols and a few guns. The line was re-established on March 29th, but it was held by only three French divisions. These had on four successive days to meet the shock of 30 enemy divisions. It is a sober fact that on those four days a General with three Divisions held up ten times our number. There has not been a finer military feat during the war. During the whole battle relief was impossible, yet fresh German divisions were thrown in daily.

The enemy is fully exploiting his superiority in numbers by attacking in crushing strength, also always with fresh troops. As soon as an enemy division gains its objective it is withdrawn and its place taken by another. The retiring division is reinforced and rests a few days, then again it is sent into battle. Hence within a week the First Guards Division was engaged in two different sectors.

We still hold essentially the line we held on March 28th. The enemy hold Moreuil and a number of villages on the west bank of the Avre, but they are dominated by the heights which we retain.

THE FIGHT FOR A CHATEAU.

We hold Grivesnes and the Chateau, despite determined attacks on March 28th, 29th and 31st, the fight for which is typical of what is occurring daily. The village was held by 500 French infantry commanded by a colonel, who blocked the windows of the Chateau with mattresses and took up a rifle to help the defenders. They repulsed three regiments of the First Prussian Guards Division, accounted the best in the German army. The enemy came on in waves, pushed and fed by thick columns of infantry. The French fought them from tree to tree in the park back to the walls of the Chateau, upon which the Colonel ordered the counter-attack. The "poilus," crying "Vive la France!" charged, and after a hideous *melée* among the trees they drove the Germans from the park.

Fighting against similar odds occurred on those four days along the whole of the Avre front. The enemy halted on March 31st for a "breather," and the attacks were renewed on April 4th with 15 divisions, including the Guards and the Brandenburgers. The onslaught was repulsed, with slight loss of ground, little more than the villages Emailly, Raineval and Sauvilly.

To-day the enemy was quiescent, excepting in artillery activity, but the lull is expected to be of short duration.

A FRENCH WITHDRAWAL EXPLAINED.

PARIS, April 7th.

With reference to the French withdrawal at Abbecourt, south of the Chauny-Barisis sector, mentioned in last evening's *communiqué*, it is semi-officially explained that the French line there formed a dangerous sector which the French High Command decided to reduce. The Germans believed that they could catch the French napping by anticipating the movement and attacking the point. They were unable, however, to prevent the conclusion of the French manœuvre, and their attempt was as costly to them as it was useless. The withdrawal merely makes the French line more solid.

EARLIER CABLES.

ENEMY ATTACK REPULSED.

PARIS, April 7th.

A *communiqué* states:—Last evening we repulsed an enemy attack in the Grivesnes region. There was great reciprocal artillery firing at night-time between Montdidier and Noyon.

A strong enemy detachment, which obtained a footing in our advanced line west of Noyon, was immediately driven out by our counter-attack.

The Germans did not renew the attempts in the Chauny-Barisis district on the Oise front. Enemy *coups-de-main* north of Chemin-des-Dames were unsuccessful.

Rheims was very violently bombarded at night-time.

"ALL IS GOING WELL."

PARIS, April 7th.

The newspapers emphasise the importance of the British position at Villers-Bretonneux in defending access to Boves, which is the enemy's immediate objective. They say that any fresh dent made by the enemy here would enable him to extend his operations to Longeau.

M. Clemenceau, yesterday, visited the British and French Army leaders. Passing through Amiens, the Premier reiterated, "All is going well."

FRENCH RETAIN CONQUERED GAINS.

PARIS, April 7th.

A *communiqué* states:—The artillery duel continued violent on the Oise and Somme front.

A strong enemy attack this morning between Mesnil-St.-George's and Le Monchel was shattered by our artillery fire and failed completely. Numerous corpses were left in front of our line.

Our batteries farther north dispersed enemy gatherings in the woods south of the Hangard and Demuin region.

The Germans in the Noyon sector, after a bombardment by heavy guns, attempted to recapture our gains north of Mont Renaud. After a severe fight we retained the conquered ground.

Our advanced lines resisted a series of furious German attacks on the left of the Oise front at Abbecourt, south of Chauny and Barisis, and after inflicting severe losses we occupied prepared positions in accordance with orders.

Russian Front.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

RUSSIAN FRONT.

TURKISH REPORT.

LONDON, April 7th.

A Turkish *communiqué*, issued yesterday, stated:—After violent fighting we occupied the region of Erdischach, on the north shore of Lake Van, in the Caucasus. We stormed strong points west of Sarikamisch and occupied Ardahan. We captured 34 mortars and a quantity of munitions.

We crossed the ancient frontier on the shore of the Black Sea in the direction of Batoum.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

LIBERTY LOAN.

NEW YORK, April 7th.

The first day's subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan of Three Billion Dollars in New York and throughout the country exceeded the subscriptions of the first days of the two former loans.

Over One Hundred Millions were subscribed in New York.

The subscriptions include the Bankers' Trust Company, Twenty-five Millions; the National Park Bank, Twenty Millions; and the Corn Exchange Bank, Sixteen Millions.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, April 7th.

Silver is quoted 45⅞d. per ounce, and the market is very quiet.

EARLIER CABLES.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

PETROGRAD, April 7th.

German aeroplanes are flying over Helsingfors.

The Russian warships have left Helsingfors for Cronstadt.

The Council of Commissaries has decided that the German landing at Hangoe concerns Finland, and the Council cannot interfere.

COMMAND OF GERMAN TROOPS IN UKRAINE.

AMSTERDAM, April 7th.

Field-Marshal von Eichorn has arrived at Kieff to assume chief command of the German troops in Ukraine.

VIOLATION OF BREST-LITOVSK TREATY.

PETROGRAD, April 7th.

M. Tchicherim, Commissary of Foreign Affairs, has despatched a wireless message to Berlin protesting against Germany's violation of Article Six of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk guaranteeing the security of the Russian Fleet and naval stores in Finnish waters, where the Germans have taken great booty.

GENERAL.

PETROGRAD, April 7th.

The British Consul at Helsingfors has gone to Petrograd.

M. Joffe has been appointed Ambassador to Berlin and M. Kamenef to Vienna.

THE SIBERIAN SITUATION.

THE POSITION AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

Moscow, April 7th.

Admiral Kato, commanding the Japanese troops landed at Vladivostock, has issued a proclamation stating that the troops have come to maintain order.

LATEST CABLES.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JAPAN.

PETROGRAD, April 7th.

The Council of Commissaries, in a manifesto, accuses Japan of striving to crush the Republic and seize Siberia, and declares that Japan is a deadly enemy of the Republic. It says the Council has demanded an explanation and warns the Allies that their replies will greatly influence the Council's foreign policy.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH TROOPS LAND.

Moscow, April 7th.

A semi-official statement announces that British troops landed at Vladivostock after the Japanese.

SILVER REPORT.

LONDON, April 7th.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu's report states:—"Brad & Street" reports that in default of an adequate silver circulation the Philippine National Bank has resorted to the issue of paper currency amounting to half-a-million dollars. It is stated that silver money will no longer be current in Italy after April 30th.

The market is steady and there is moderate business.

Shanghai exchange made no important movement.

The silver output in the United States for 1917 is officially estimated at 74,244,500 fine ounces, a reduction of 170,302 fine ounces compared with 1916.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY TO KING GEORGE.

LONDON, April 7th.

The Press Bureau announces:—President Wilson, replying to King George, expresses his warm gratification at His Majesty's generous message, assuring His Majesty that it is the greatest satisfaction to the people of the United States to find themselves side by side in a final war for free self-government. "With such steadfast, indomitable associates," the President adds, "we shall continue to do our utmost to put the whole force of the United States into the great struggle."

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

LONDON, April 7th.

The Press Bureau announces:—Mr. Lloyd George has despatched the following message to the Viceroy of India:—

"At this time, when the intention of Germany's rulers to establish tyranny not only throughout Europe, but Asia, has become transparently clear, I ask the Government and people of India to redouble their efforts. Thanks to the heroism of the British Armies and the Allies, the enemy's attempt in the West is being checked, but to prevent the menace spreading eastward every lover of freedom and law must play his part. I have no doubt India will add to the laurels already won and equip itself on a greater scale than now as the bulwark which will save Asia from the tide of oppression and disorder which it is the enemy's object to achieve."

VICEROY'S REPLY.

The Viceroy of India replied:—

"All India is stirred to its depths by the noble sacrifices of the British people in the cause of the world's freedom, and by the stern unalterable resolution that those sacrifices evince. India is anxious, yet confident, and fully realises the great issues at stake, and your trumpet-call at this crisis will not fall on deaf ears. I feel confident that it will awaken princes, peoples and leaders to a keener sense of the grave danger which stemmed Europe and now threatens to move eastwards. I look to them for the fullest effort and the fullest sacrifice to safeguard the soil of their motherland against all attempts of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy, and secure the final triumph of the ideals of justice and honour for which the British Empire stands."

TRIBUTE TO MR. ASQUITH

"RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR THE ENGLISH NATION."

The *Melbourne Age* publishes a remarkable tribute to Mr. Asquith in a leading article reviewing a recent interview in the American Press.

"To-day Mr. Asquith is," the *Age* says, "looked upon almost as the political, although not the administrative, leader of England; and his calm, dispassionate repudiation of Lord Lansdowne's recent ill-timed letter to the Press probably did more to avert a political crisis in England then even the Premier's more vigorous condemnation.

"Writing of Mr. Asquith in 1910, a member of his Government said, 'A great task and a great emergency are needed to draw out all the resources of this man's splndid equipment.' That great task and that great emergency came in the August of 1914. And who shall say that Mr. Asquith did not meet the crisis with great-ness? Public favour afterwards partially deserted him because, to the public mind, he seemed too slow and too deliberate a leader for a time of rapid emergencies. But now in considered judgment many hold the opinion that the very quality of calmness that roused the impatience of a section of the English people was the quality most needed in the leadership of England when, weak and unprepared, she faced the strong and efficient military aggression of Germany."

The *Age* goes on to eulogise Mr. Asquith's refusal to harass Mr. Lloyd George, and proceeds: "Mr. Asquith has a right to speak for the English nation, and the American people are justified in placing great importance on what he says. It may well be that Mr. Lloyd George's qualities of brilliant and rapid action are what the Empire most needs in leadership just now. But Mr. Asquith's qualities of just and impassioned judgment are also invaluable to the nation's guidance."

THE FORCE OF A TORPEDO.

Some idea of the force of a torpedo was supplied in the Admiralty Court recently by Mr. Justice Hill. "The damage was extraordinary," said the judge. "The torpedo passed right through the vessel from port to starboard, making a hole 40ft. long, bending out the plates six feet, and making other holes, from which the ship must have sunk had not the salvage services been promptly rendered."

THE BOLSHEVIK PROGRAMME

NOT PACIFISM, BUT UNIVERSAL CLASS WAR.

Professor Bernard Pares (Professor of Russian language, history and literature at the University of Liverpool; Editor of *Russian Review*; Secretary of the Anglo-Russian Committee in London) in his second article under the heading of "The Tragedy of Russia" in *The Daily News*—written before the receipt of the signing of peace at Brest-Litovsk—describes the war weariness in Russia. He says:—

The root explanation of Russia's troubles is to be sought in the criminal deficiency of munitions, and in the consequent appalling casualties. These staggered the imagination, and it is no wonder if their results bewilder our judgment; but they are a human fact of the first magnitude—one of those facts which alter the whole face of things.

The wonder was that the Russian army fought on so long; for its conditions defied not only Russian but human endurance.

BEYOND 14 DAYS' ENDURANCE.

An English doctor familiar also with the French front, Dr. Flavelle, who visited with me in February, 1917, some trenches at the top of the Carpathians, gave the opinion that physical endurance of their conditions was impossible for more than fourteen days. It remains to trace their various effects.

By March the men were munitioned. In our part we were now in this matter up to the Austrians and in sight of the Germans, and we were all confident of breaking through.

The German troops in front of us were desperately in want of food; they knew what munitions meant to us, and could only hold their immense eastern front by our lack of them.

The rulers of Germany therefore opened an entirely new campaign for military action they substituted internal propaganda. This was a weapon which they had ready for use all over the world.

ACTED IN THE RIGHT WAY.

Russia gave them the first chance. The news of the Russian revolution and of the establishment of a truly national Government did nothing but improve discipline at the front. There had been no signs, so far, of a wish to break discipline; and the army was long since at least as democratic as our own.

But in the rear, the collapse of the autocracy and the void thus created led to a struggle for power, the extreme revolutionaries now coming out with their matured plan for a dictatorship of the proletariat, in which not equality or democracy was aimed at, but a complete disfranchisment of all property and of all education.

This is the meaning of the Soviet Government, and is the formula of the Bolsheviks. It is not pacifism; it is the substitution of a universal class war for the present European war and then to follow wholesale annexations at the expense of classes.

LABOUR BLAMED.

It should be added that the programme was that of a small and resolute group of thinkers, and that in its application no account is taken of the ordinary principles of constitutionalism and of national representation; so that—and this is the point which English readers most require to realise—the most determined enemies of the Bolsheviks are those great Labour parties which stand nearest to them and see the collapse of all ordered liberty and of the new *régime* itself in the Bolsheviks success.

These parties, the Minimum Social Democrats and the bulk of the Socialist Revolutionaries, who best correspond to the majority of our own Labour Party, are for constitutional government, and, in general, for loyalty to the Western democracies in their struggle against German autocracy.

RUSSIAN WAR WEARINESS.

But the great factor of the situation was the immense war weariness; and this played straight into the hands of the Bolsheviks. Meanwhile, the German attitude is very simple; they regard the whole question purely and simply from the point of their own war interests (and we must not follow them into this mistake).

The German Government believes in autocracy as a source of strength and traditions and institutions. This is why Lenin was sent through to Russia, and why he was sent through Germany in a sealed waggon. There are many other instances, quite as amusing.

There is nothing to be afraid of in all this, but everything to be on our guard against. The German plan has given the Germans enormous advantages in the war, but it is far more dangerous to them than to anyone else, for the reason that there is far more to revolutionise in Germany than elsewhere.

The proper inoculation against revolution is democracy. It is democracy that converts revolution into constructive reform. But there is plenty to guard against, as Russia has already taught us to our cost.

REVOLT AGAINST AUTHORITY.

On this same basis of war weariness attempts are being made in all the Allied countries to foster a crude movement of revolt against all leadership, especially of those leaders and representative institutions of its own which Labour has so far recognised.

The Bolsheviks want in Germany a revolution and the deposition of William. William wants bread for his army, and immediately he and his allies are already arranging the division of the supplies. The Bolsheviks want full freedom to revolutionise Germany—also immediately; and, indeed, they need it to make good at home.

For ourselves, unquestionably the first need is that we should be honest with ourselves, and for that the peace at which we must aim must be democratic and must rest on the knowledge and approval of peoples.

We must hold to our friendship with the Russian people, both for the present and for the future, and for that there must be no doubt about our standing firm to our ideals of a *régime* of democracy.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

The following is a list of unclaimed telegrams lying in the Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company's office at Hongkong:—

ADDRESS	FROM
Abdoolrom Abdoolsatar	Manila
Burress J. W. (Hongkong zone)	War Office
Emilotte (?)	San Francisco
Gardiner, Hongkong Hotel	Singapore
Gourock Ropework Export Co.	Calcutta
Gourdeau, Hongkong Hotel	Sydney
High c/o Richards	Calcutta
Hollabaugh	San Francisco
Walker, Mistress, steamer New Amsterdam	Lobong Scelts
Watson, c/o American Consul	Seattle

"GLEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM LONDON, GENOA AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"GLENIFFER"

having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed AT THEIR RISK into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by 10th instant, at 5 P.M., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, on the 10th instant, at 10 A.M.

Claims against the Steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd April 1918. [1863

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Superintendent.

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SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND STORES.

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[1739

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Shipped in British vessels.

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The finest health beverage. Warranted by a British firm of world-wide renown.

Of All Storekeepers.

Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.—Liverpool & London.

[1735

GRIMAULT'S SYRUP OF HYPOPHOSPHITE OF LIME

FOR

STUBBORN COUGHS
BRONCHITIS
WEAK LUNGS
CATARRH
CONSUMPTION

[32

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[32

HONGKONG MAGISTRCAY.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR.

An Indian pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly on Sunday at Nathan Road.

Inspector Gordon stated that defendant, who was an ex-warder of the gaol, was a great nuisance. He had been summoned several times before for a similar offence. When found in Nathan Road, defendant's clothing was disarranged, and he struggled with the Indian constable who arrested him.

Mr. Dyer Ball administered a severe warning, and fined defendant $5, with the alternative of ten days' hard labour.

FIGHTING.

Eleven coolies were charged with figting at Kowloon City on Saturday.

Mr. King, A.S.P., stated that when he was standing near the pier he heard a commotion and, going to the spot, he saw the defendants fighting with bamboos, etc. The fight was stopped and the men were arrested. The fight was the result of a stone falling in a trench where some men were working. There has been frequent quarrels before, and, if allowed to continue, something serious would be sure to occur.

Mr. Dyer Ball bound defendants over in bonds of $50 each to be of good behaviour for six months.

MISSING RICE.

A Chinese junkmaster was charged, on remand, with stealing 455 lbs. of rice, the property of the Tong Seng Co.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner appeared for the Company, and Mr. P. Goldring for the defendant.

At a previous hearing it was stated that a quantity of loose rice was discovered concealed in the servants' quarters of the junk, which lay alongside a Japanese steamer. The bags of rice were weighed and were found to be short of 800 lbs.

The Junkmaster stated that as a result of the bursting of some bags, the rice was spilt in his boat. He ordered his *fokis* to sweep aside the loose rice with the intention of returning it to the owner.

Mr. J. R. Wood believed defendant's story and discharged him, suggesting that a regulation should be made imposing a penalty on junkmasters whenever cargo was found in any other place but that allotted for the cargo.

PICKING ANOTHER MAN'S POCKET.

A Chinese was charged with picking a purse, containing $30.10, from the pocket of another Chinese.

The complainant, a dealer in furs, said he was walking along Queen's Road West on Saturday when defendant came up to him and sneaked the purse from his pocket. The act was noticed by witness' companion, who immediately arrested the man.

Defendant said he was a new arrival in the Colony. While going along the road he accidentally trod on complainant's foot, as a result of which complainant and another man assaulted him. He ran away, but was stopped by a constable, who arrested him. The complainant accused him out of spite.

Inspector Macdonald said defendant was one of many undesirables who were over-running the Colony.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to six months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

LORD ROSEBERY ON PRUSSIAN HYPOCRISY.

Addressing a large gathering in Bo'ness (Linlithgowshire) Town Hall, on the occasion of the presentation of a sword of honour to Captain Henry Strachan, Fort Garry Horse, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his daring leadership of cavalry at the break through at Cambrai, Lord Rosebery said this war was the reaction of the world against a most insufferable military conspiracy against its liberties, which for long years, had been calculated and prepared by a country which had the insolence, at the inception of the war, to boast of being the apostle of peace. If there was one thing more terrible in the operations of this war than another it was the hideous hypocrisy shown by Prussia, under the guise of peace, in undermining the whole soil of Europe with its preparations for war. While Britons were true to themselves there was no fear of the result of the war, in spite of the defection of Russia, which had proved false to the calls of honour, although it had so large a part in the inception of the struggle. But we would persevere to the end; we would strain our last nerve and give our last man, and our last sovereign, if necessary, to carry this tremendous conflict of nations to a successful issue.

"Dogged does it," Lord Rosebery concluded, "and we shall be dogged."

THE BOLSHEVIKS' CREED.

WILD MESSAGE TO ALLIED NAVAL MEN.

The Bolshevik organ *The Red Flag* has published the following extraordinary appeal to the men on a British and American warship at Vladivostock:—

"Comrades and fellow workers.

"We are asking you to forget for a moment that you are sailors and soldiers, holystoning the deck, polishing brass, and manœuvring guns against a race which at the bottom of your hearts you do not hate. Be men with all the elements of humanity, men of sympathy, of emotion, of love, hate, laughter and sadness! You are men whose hands are hardened with toil, and sons of labour. Let us talk things over together.

"Doubtless you remember the unhappy day when you donned the uniform. You were struggling for life.

"You recall the days when you sought for work, very often in vain—and when you found it what miserable work it was! You remember the master of slaves, known as "the foreman" who practically dominated your existence, at the machine, in the mine or in the building yards, and you will remember when conditions became insupportable and you went on strike! Your masters gave you bullets instead of bettering your lot, and you remember what were your feelings then.

"Do you recall, how, defeated by force, but too proud to return to your work you joined the navy?

"You certainly remember all these things.

"Now you are in the navy, far from your homes and those you love, but do you know that your comrades are living the same life as you lived, but with more bitterness? Do you know that since the dear old United States entered the war there have been more than 3,000 strikes, accompanied by all the horrors that always attend strikes? Do you know that we, the Russian revolutionaries, are fighting to rid ourselves of these horrors and that you are the gunners destined to destroy us?

"Think of it then. Yes, you men of toil-hardened hands, sons of labour, are here to help in fighting the social and economic strike in which we, the Russian working and peasant classes, are engaged. We are fighting heroically and are making great sacrifices in order to ensure success. We are nevertheless surrounded by soldiers from all parts. The bloody German soldier is crushing us in the West, and you—men just as we are—in spite of yourselves will probably have to strike at us in the East.

"Do you know that if we are beaten here you in your turn will be beaten down when you return to your own countries?

"You will not find employment, but poverty, hunger, misery, strikes and death.

"On the other hand, if we attain the object for which we fight—that is to say, an order of things which will allow every man to receive the full fruits of his labour which will ensure that he who does not work shall not eat, which will suppress the parasites known as 'employers,' the vultures known as 'bankers' and 'speculators and the lick-spittles called 'bureaucrats' in place of all these there will be love, light and happiness, and when you return to your homes you will find the same state of things, to effect which measures are in train here. For men, this revolution has become infectious and is spreading through the whole world.

"It is for this reason, comrades, that it will be high treason to your cause and to ours, as workers, to fire a single shot at us even if priests bless your dynamite!

"Do not be traitors."

STAMP COLLECTION WORTH £15,000.

PRESENTED TO A SYDNEY LIBRARY.

New South Wales stamps have always been considered amongst the principal stamps of the world because the dies used in printing them in the early days were all engraved locally on copper. The work was done by Mr. W. Wilson, and each die was engraved separately, there being then no means of reproduction. Consequently, when the copper plates containing 25 dies came from the engraver's hands there were slight variations on each which the expert could detect—here a cloud omitted, there a full point. The greatest interest consisted in getting these 25 together and making of them a special collection. This has been done by Mr H. L. White, of "Bell-trees" station, Scone, and they have been included in a collection valued at £15,000, which has been recently handed over as a free gift to the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

New South Wales was the first country in the world to adopt the pre-paid postage system. Some of the plates first made in Australia were in use for 50 years. In 1838 there was a controversy in England with regard to postage reform, and acting on reports forwarded to Australia, the then Postmaster-General, Mr. James Raymond, in 1838 instituted pre-payment by the issue of embossed wrappers or covers at 1½d. each, or 1s. 3d. per dozen, and Mr. White secured specimens of these rarities. In the new departure Great Britain followed suit in 1840. Stamps, as now used, were issued in Australia in June, 1850, the values being 1d., 2d. and 3d. There are 15 or 20 copies of these, unused in the collection, and each is worth from £50 to £100. There is a 3d. Laureate, extremely rare, and worth anything up to £200, and a 2d. Diadem, of which there are only two copies known to be in existence, and a conservative value of one of which would be £100.

LEST WE FORGET.

THE TREATMENT OF GERMANS AFTER THE WAR.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

It is almost incredible that there should still be persons of British nationality who are prepared, at the conclusion of the war, to have dealings with Germans, not merely in business, but on terms of friendship. Yet such persons do exist; and, this, notwithstanding the conclusive proofs with which we have been furnished of the utter perfidy of the German race, the indescribable horrors perpetrated by the fiends in human shape of all ranks in the German Navy and Army, and the connivance at—in fact, the deliberate stirring up of—such horrors by those in authority over the perpetrators. As we say, the acts of the fiends are, many of them, indescribable. It is only necessary to read Lord Bryce's report, and the two publications of Mr. Toynbee—"The German Terror in Belgium," and "The German Terror in France"—to realise the fact that to term the German soldier a savage is an insult to the most uncivilized human being who has ever existed. What man or a savage tribe would, before carrying out their intention to murder her, one after the other, violate a girl child of tender years! This is by no means the worst of the crimes committed by these beasts; encouraged, and assisted, by their officers, with the admitted view of pursuing a policy of "frightfulness." That which reads like impious blasphemy on the part of the Kaiser, and German pastors, when he and they offer praises to God for aiding the Germans in the massacre of innocents, is very possibly the explanation:—The God they thank, and call upon for further assistance, is not the God we know, but the one who took our Lord "up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." It is this temptation to which the German rulers and people succumbed, and this is really the German god we hear so much about; the cloven-hoofed god, who has implanted in the minds of the German people the idea that they will be serving him best by committing every atrocity imaginable; by exterminating, or crushing, those who do not serve the same god, regardless of age or sex; and thus making themselves masters of the world, which would thenceforth be ruled by that German god. But, just as Germany regarded her solemn Treaty merely as "a scrap of paper," so no more reliance can be placed on this offer of the devil to give the world to Germans, provided that we continue to show the same determination as did our Lord, and say, as the Germans have not said: "Get thee hence, Satan."

This is, however, digressing. What is desired now is to impress upon British people the necessity for holding as little intercourse as possible with persons of German nationality after the conclusion of the war until they have given proof that the devils with which they are at present possessed have been cast out. It has been said that, if we so resolve, our commerce is likely to suffer. This is exceedingly doubtful, but, even were such the case, how much better should we be than profiteers—scoundrels who make a profit out of the murder of their countrymen and relatives—if we treated these people as before, and thus condoned their offences! By so doing we should ourselves become accessories after the fact to the murders and other crimes committed by them. It is true that our Lord preached forgiveness of sins, but the sins He referred to were sins against man, against individuals—and truly repented of; not against the world, Christianity, civilisation, and humanity in general; for He said:—"Whosoever speaketh a word against the son of man it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come." What, clearly, He meant by this is that crimes committed in the name of the Holy Ghost, and in respect of which blasphemous praises were offered up to God, could not be forgiven. It is not, therefore, for us to forgive, and to hold intercourse with, any person of German nationality after the war, unless and until certain beyond all doubt that he has not, wilfully, been one of the blasphemers and criminals whom we have been practically commanded to condemn.

FIRST SEA LORD ON THE WORK OF THE NAVY.

Admiral Sir Rosslyn Erskine Wemyss, the new First Sea Lord, was the guest of honour, recently, at a dinner given by members of the Eccentric Club in aid of the Harwich and other Minesweepers (Widows and Orphans) Benevolent Fund.

Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, responding to the toast of his health, and accepting hon. life membership of the club, said: I can assure you that we in the Navy—we all—feel our responsibility; we know what this war has brought on us, and, as the chairman has said, it is we who protect the shores—I don't know whether we do it well, or do it so well as we could wish—but of one thing I can assure you, that we all feel our responsibility; we all try to play up to the traditions of the men who have gone before us, and if we can in any way insure—and we can—the approbation of our fellow-citizens, then we shall, indeed, have done our duty. I have come to a position which I never expected to come to. In the days of one's youth one never thought of it, but when one does come to it one cannot help feeling a sense of responsibility in doing so, and I can assure you that sense of responsibility is considerably lightened when one has the sympathy of one's fellow-citizens.

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

(*Continued from page 2.*)

I gathered that Mr. Messer and Mr. Wright both thought that it was their duty only to enforce regulations and not to initiate them, and that they could not be expected to be wise before the event, but I submit, gentlemen, that every public officer entrusted with the care of the safety of the public should always be on the look-out for possible risks and should suggest to the "Powers that Be" any new regulations which he considers desirable, and should take steps to ensure that his suggestions receive full consideration, instead of being consigned to a convenient pigeon-hole.

I have already pointed out that the Director of Public Works and Capt. Superintendent of Police had full power in this particular matter to make any regulations or conditions which they might (after conferring together) deem necessary without waiting for any legislative authority.

THE LESSEES.

Th next class who took upon themselves a duty towards the safety of the public were the lessees, who for their own ends voluntarily undertook to erect sheds and invited the public at large to, come to their sheds, either to see the Races or to try their luck in the *pari-mutuel* or cash-sweeps—subject, of course, to the Lessees' commission on the sale of tickets.

I have already suggested that it would have been better to let the sites to substantial individuals only, subject to security, and you have heard that many of the sheds were let to syndicates, some of them composed of clerks, meter-readers, office boys and coolies in the Public Works Department. Whether it is desirable for Government servants to have shares in these gambling-booths is a question which I do not propose to discuss.

These lessees had absolute control over the design, dimensions, construction and arrangement of the sheds—provided only that they did not overstep the limits of the site-plan. They controlled the supply of electric light, also cooking arrangements, exits, staircases and counters, also the admission to and use of, the sheds. My clients could not interfere in any of these details, except to the extent pointed out by his Worship, namely, to warn the lessees against a design which would result in an obviously dangerous shed from the structural point of view.

Now with regard to the Lessees of the sheds 1, 2, and 3, 4, 5, and 6 and 17, 18, and 19 there seems to be no ground for complaint. No lives were lost in these sheds, and the exits appear to have been adequate. There was no cooking in sheds 1 to 5, and in No. 6 adequate precautions against fire seem to have been taken by the lessee, the chatties being placed on the bare earth away from any woodwork, and barrels and buckets of water being provided. Also, watchmen were at the doors and two detectives were engaged. There is nothing to show that any fire or panic originated in any of these sheds.

At No. 7 there was no exit from the basement, which contained an oil lamp and a chatty, but no fire buckets. This was the first of the three-storey matsheds, but it was well strutted fore and aft and probably would not have fallen had not others pushed or dragged it down.

No. 8 was a complicated shed both in structure and arrangement; it overlapped No. 9 on the first storey, and the ground storey was sublet for a cash sweep. Electric light was installed, and Chinese chatties were in use on the first floor, but four large buckets of water were provided and sand was strewn under the chatties. Mr. Chatham considered the exits adequate.

I propose to refer again to the structure of this shed and No. 9 later on. No. 9 was not remarkable in any way; it was stated that there was no cooking here, and the exits were considered adequate; there were only 1½ floors.

No. 10 was a three-storied shed. This is the first Chinese shed, and was let to a syndicate of 25, of whom no fewer than 10 were clerks, boys or coolies in the Public Work Department. The ground floor was sublet to another syndicate, also employed in the Public Works Department, for use as a restaurant. The exits were satisfactory. Electric light was installed by a Chinese firm and there were fires on the ground-floor.

Mr. S. M. da Cruz, an assistant in No. 9, states positively that he saw cooking in No. 10 in Chinese chatties and 2 or 3 iron stoves, and a large brass pan. This witness objected to the proximity of the stoves to his shed on Monday, and they were moved into the centre of No. 10. He first saw fire in the partition between Nos. 9 and 10. I think you will regard this evidence as most important.

A partner in this shed, No. 10, Chan Siu-tong, a Crown Sergeant in the Police Reserve, who gave his evidence very clearly, stated that when he first saw the fire it was only one foot square, and that if he had two or three buckets of water he could have put it out—another very significant statement. Sóo Chi, an office coolie in the P.W.D., who also had a share in No. 10, stated that he was superintending the cooking in No. 10 at the time of the collapse.

No. 11, another Chinese shed, was not remarkable; it was of two storeys only, and the lessees state that there was no cooking. Two partners in this shed state positively that they first saw the fire near or between 9 and 10, and not on the other side.

No. 12 was a matshed with two floors for spectators and a basement 6 feet high. The exits were satisfactory; but several witnesses say that a fire originated in this shed.

No. 13 was similar to No. 12 with a 7-foot basement; the exits were satisfactory and there is no evidence of cooking, but witnesses saw early fire there. Two Indian watchmen were engaged.

No. 14 had 2½ floors, and the exits from the upper floors were unsatisfactory. The ground-floor was sublet, and there was a chatty there. Fire was also noticed here at an early stage.

No. 15, the Japanese shed, was of 1-2/3 floors with a 6-foot basement. The assistant manager says there was a chatty in his shed, but the fire came from 9 and 10. The exit from the top floor was unsatisfactory.

No. 16 was the highest shed of all—3 stories. No cooking was done in it, and there were no lamps. The exits from the top floors were not satisfactory.

Now all these sheds except 1, 2 and 3 were open to the public in unlimited numbers. Cash-sweeps were drawn in most of them, and *pari-mutuels* run. The crowd would naturally move from point to point as their attention was attracted by the Races and the gambling alternately, subjecting the sheds to the complicated strains of a very lively load. If you thought that any lessee permitted overcrowding and thereby caused a collapse you might consider that to amount to negligence. Similarly, if you think that any lessee by careless use of cooking apparatus started any of the fires, which undoubtedly caused many deaths, you might bring in a verdict of manslaughter against that person. But I venture to submit that my clients could not be held responsible for any overcrowding, or for any misuse of fire; they handed over the sheds to the lessees on completion, and had no control over the use to which the sheds were put.

Before dealing with the position of the contractors I should like to mention the electric light. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade is responsible for the safety of the lighting of theatres, etc., and there seems no reason why he should not have been consulted with reference to the lighting of these sheds. Whilst you will, no doubt, have every confidence in the work put in by the Hongkong Electric Company as detailed by Mr. Graham, you may, I think, view with apprehension the fact that some of the lights were installed by Chinese without supervision. This was the work of the lessees and had nothing to do with my clients.

THE CONTRACTORS.

It was the duty of the contractors to construct reasonably safe sheds according to their skill and experience, but, in the words of Halsbury, "it is sufficient if reasonable precaution, and what is usual and ordinary in such cases, be taken." They were not bound to insure the users of the sheds against extraordinary risks, such as fire, panic, overcrowding, or negligent or malicious injury to the structures.

You have seen the two managing partners of the Sze Hop, the old man and the young man. You have heard that the old man has been engaged in the practical work of erecting scaffolding and matsheds for 40 years, and that the younger man, who is not a matshed builder by trade, recently took up his deceased's father's share in the business, and takes charge of the accounts and office work. It was suggested "old Sze Hop" was dead, and that his son was running the business, but it has been proved that the witness Kwok Kun had the same experience and control as his late partner.

This firm employs from 70 to 80 *fuis*, and has a large quantity of materials. They have been entrusted with numerous heavy jobs of shoring, scaffolding, theatre building, etc., and have always given satisfaction. They undertake no other kind of business.

The firm has a well-earned reputation, which its members are not likely to imperil by scamped work or faulty material. With regard to the latter, you have heard that they spent $10,000 on new material last year, some 30 per cent. above their expenditure of previous years. Mr. Wright and Mr. Sara and all other witnesses who saw the sheds express themselves as perfectly satisfied with the material and general appearance of the sheds. You, gentlemen, have seen the two sheds at the Racecourse which did not collapse, and you have every day an opportunity of seeing the substantial nature of my clients' work at the Old Mercantile Bank building in Ice House Street.

It has been suggested that the material was weakened by the drought, but there is no evidence on that point with regard to these matsheds, and I think you will admit from your own experience that although drought may injuriously affect squared timber it has little effect on these round poles, which are practically in their natural condition.

The construction of these sheds was carried out in the most public manner possible, in the most public place in the Colony; there was no inducement to jerry-building, as the contractors (unlike the ordinary builders) reserved the right to remove the materials after the races, and it was to their interest, therefore, to guard against any breakage or damage.

The design of the sheds has been criticised and an attempt has been made by several to throw all responsibility for the design upon the contractors. I submit that this is unfair. The contractors were not given a free hand; they were restricted within certain narrow lines by the Public Works Department. In particular, they were not allowed to put sloping shores at the back, and in front they were pressed as close as possible to the racing track. If the contractors had not been restricted by the narrowness of the site it cannot be doubted that they would have inserted on each side and angle of the sheds those raking shores which are such a familiar feature in Chinese matshed construction. They were bound to follow their various employers' instructions with regard to dimensions and arrangements, staircases, and exits; to provide as much opening in front as possible and large entrances for the crowds at the back. They received no guidance, advice or assistance from the Public Works Department, or from any professional man, but had to work entirely by rule of thumb, and the light of experience. I submit that there is not a shadow of evidence to show that they in any way failed in their duties.

THE COLLAPSE.

I now come to the collapse itself. We have had this described by many observers from different standpoints. Most of them could only obtain sidelong views of the disaster, and in looking along a row from any position it is most difficult to locate any point accurately.

The person who had the best views of the collapse and has given the clearest account of it is Mr. Hodgson, who was in front of the row and obtained a more or less central view of it. He told us positively that No. 14 moved first, then No. 15—the people in these two sheds were all moving about. These sheds seemed to push down all the sheds to the left (except at the end), the people in the sheds pushed down were not moving about but appeared to fall with the sheds. No. 16 was then dragged down. He immediately saw smoke behind the tall shed with flags (No. 13), and three minutes later saw flames. He also said that the sheds were very crowded at the time.

Mr. Witchell placed the first sign of collapse at No. 14 and 15 also, Warder West at 15 and 16. Mr. Hamilton at "near 16." Mr. Hodgson's statement has, therefore, very strong support.

Colonel Ward told us that the first thing he noticed was a general rush away from the front of the sheds; then a rush in the stands themselves from N.E. to S.W. He thought that No. 8 fell first, and in about 20 seconds he saw only black smoke about the roof of 8 and 9. Mr. Thomas also noticed the preliminary panic described by Colonel Ward, whilst Mr. Witchell describes a rush of the people in the stands to the front.

Mee Cheung saw white smoke within ten seconds of the collapse; he thought the fire started near the centre of the row. His photographs, taken within ten seconds of each other, show that the fire spread with extraordinary rapidity.

Colonel Young placed the beginning of the collapse at about No. 13. He noticed this whilst near the band, and as soon as he reached the slope to the course, he saw fire.

These witnesses are typical, and their evidence goes to show panic, collapse and fire all happening, if not at the same moment, at any rate within an extraordinarily short interval of time. It seems impossible to determine whether the panic caused the collapse, and the collapse caused the fire; or whether the fire caused the panic, and the panic caused the collapse; or whether the collapse caused both panic and fire.

Unfortunately, 570 persons who were most concerned with these happenings have perished and can tell us nothing about them, whilst the total destruction of the sheds by fire has destroyed nearly all the evidence from the sheds themselves. We are, therefore, left to theories, probabilities and possibilities.

PANIC.

The original cause of a panic may be of the most trifling nature, but, once started, it spreads like wild-fire and cannot be stopped. I think there are many indications that on the 26th February the crowd was in such a mental condition that a panic was extremely likely to occur. Shortly before that date the public nerves had received severe shocks; first, the Gresson Street affray, which might cause anyone to expect robbery and violence at any moment; secondly, the earthquake, which caused great excitement amongst the people generally. The main earthquake shock was followed by a number of slighter shocks on successive days, until people began to imagine earthquake at the slightest movement or noise, and there is evidence that the Chinese expected a third disaster.

This nervous conditions may have accounted for the extraordinary story of the boy who heard people in the street calling out a warning against going to the matsheds, and for the presentiment which led Mr. Ho War Tung to warn his family and acquaintances to avoid three-storeyed matsheds. Then the outbreak of a new disease—the mysterious spotted fever—was another factor producing nervousness. Many witnesses have testified to this nervous condition, and many have told us that they thought at first the collapse was produced by an earthquake, whilst Mr. da Silva expected the earth to open its mouth and swallow him up.

Then the idea that the lashings were being cut created a panic in the breast of Mr. Li Po Lung, a worthy gentleman of great intelligence, so that he forthwith withdrew himself and his family from the shed. For the purpose of my argument with regard to panic, it does not matter whether the cutting actually took place or not, so long as people thought it was going on.

The cutting theory should not, I submit, be dismissed lightly. There is nothing impossible in it; the evidence of Li Po Lung and his son is that they heard the sound of cutting with a knife—a very characteristic sound quite distinct from the sound of breaking, and the boy was familiar with it from watching bamboo men at work. Colonel Young's statement that it involved the suicide of the cutter does not render the thory incredible; there is even an historical precedent for such a death in the story of Samson, who brought down upon himself the house of the Philistines at Gaza by pulling out the uprights, and slew at his death more than he slew in his life. And we can very well imagine that a few desperadoes bent on robbery might have seized the opportunity, when all the spectators were looking at the ponies assembling for the 5th Race, or watching (as one witness told us) the drawing of the Champion Sweeps, of cutting the lashings of the cross-bracings in one or more of the basements of the sheds. Such lashings are not in the middle of the shed, but near the edge, and it would be quite easy to cut with one of these sharp knives which the bamboo men use, and to slip out before the shed fell. It would be still easier to vanish in the panic-stricken mob, with much of the cash that must have been scattered about. We are told that much cash vanished; we have no information as to how much was burnt and how much stolen.

Of course, no good policeman will admit the existence of a crime unless he has a clue, and no clue to the matshed cutters has been found—the police, therefore, are bound to pooh-pooh this theory.

If any damage was done either intentionally or accidentally to the structure which caused the partial collapse of a floor that would be quite sufficient to start a panic, with the consequent rush to the exits and the concentration of the live load in a portion of the structure not prepared to receive it, and the consequent collapse of the sheds.

FIRE.

Then with regard to the fire I would ask you to notice that a small fire might easily have occurred in the interior of any one of the matsheds without being noticeable to the observers in the enclosure or on the course; that such a fire would inevitably produce a local panic, with the result above described. In this connection I submit that the evidence shows clearly that, although the fiercest fire was round about No. 8, there were several distinct fires in other positions. Sirdar Khan, Chief Inspector in the Police Reserve, and a very reliable witness, who was in No. 11, is positive that he first saw fire at 13, 14 and 15. Mr. Stainfield and Mr. Hill, two reliable witnesses, first saw fire at No. 13, and Warder West between 12 and 13. Mr. Nazarin saw two fires, one in 8 and one in 10. Tin Fong and Lam Wing Shing, who were watching from the road near the French Convent, saw two distinct fires, and they were in an excellent position for observation. Tam Hing Yam, who was in No. 13, first saw fire in No. 12. It is obvious that any one of these fires may have caused panic, and it is probable that each of them caused a number of deaths; and for such deaths my clients cannot be held responsible.

SHEDS NO. 8 AND 9.

It is argued that the pile of bodies at No. 8 and the condition of the bodies proves that the collapse commenced there, but there is no medical evidence to support this theory. The death in the case before you was due to suffocation, and that might have resulted either from collapse or fire; and Dr. Macfarlane has told you that the position of the legs does not necessarily point to suffocation.

I suggest that the pile of bodies at No. 8 was caused by a combination of causes. We know that the sheds fell towards No. 8, but the top floor of No. 8 fell in the opposite direction—this gives us a double quantity at that point. Such congestion would increase the panic and the difficulty of getting out. The shed itself is so strongly constructed with a forest of uprights, cross-braces, staircases, etc., that its very strength again added to the difficulties of extrication. Finally, we know that the nearest fire started near this spot, and rendered the chances of escape from this mass of struggling humanity practically *nil*. It does not follow, however, that any of these persons were killed by collapse; all or any of them may have been killed by the fire. The pile of bodies at that point also points to the fact that sheds 8 and 9 were seriously overcrowded.

THE EXPERTS.

Finally, we come to the evidence of experts—professional and amateur. I will first deal with those who criticised the construction of the matsheds unfavourably.

With all respect to Colonel Ward, I venture to submit that he gave his opinion somewhat hastily. You will remember that the gallant Colonel came into Court, glanced at the model of No. 16, and said: "There is the cause of the collapse." Now No. 16 by itself is like a brick standing on end—it is top-heavy; but the range of matsheds, taken as a whole, were like a brick lying on its broad side, which is not top-heavy. At every point of the row the base was broader than the height.

Then we were told that the structure was faulty for want of diagonal braces and owing to the fact that the floors were on different levels; but it was subsequently demonstrated that the provision of diagonal bracing is a question of degree, and that you must regard the structure as a whole and remember that a diagonal brace at any point helps to resist the thrust of the whole range towards that point.

Mr. Messer told us that he had studied mathematics, and that if you placed a series of horizontals on a series of perpendiculars and then gave a lateral thrust the structure would collapse—a fairly elementary principle, which most of us learnt in our nurseries. He totally ignored the lashings, but at last he had to admit that each lashing afforded a certain amount of resistance to a lateral thrust, which amount must be multiplied by the number of points lashed.

Colonel Young has had no experience in matshed construction, but he has built bridges for artillery, and was strong on the theory of diagonal bracing. Now, whatever stresses these matsheds had to stand they were not asked to stand that of a tank or heavy howitzer crossing them, or any of the special strains to which bridges are subject; and we have evidence that the braces were sufficient for all ordinary purposes. Col. Young also criticised the apparent absence of a strut in continuation of the line of the back of No. 9, but I have since pointed out to you that there is a very substantial strut there, which, though not in line, is so near the line as to afford considerable support. Also, that each of the diagonal braces sloping from N.E. to S.W. in the range from 14 to 9 takes up the thrust as it comes along and relieves No. 9 of the greater part of it.

Professor Middleton Smith and Mr. Dyer both said that, having no data to go upon, they could only rely on the experience of the contractor.

Mr. Chatham, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Wright and Mr. Sara, who have all had practical experience in matshed structures, all gave it as their considered opinion that the matsheds were sufficiently strong for all ordinary purposes.

Mr. Denison, an absolutely independent witness, whose experience in the Colony is longer than that of any other witness, totally disagreed with Colonel Ward's theory that the floors, being on different levels, afforded no support; in fact, he went so far as to say that the contrary was the case, and that since the floors were lashed to the uprights the difference in level afforded the latter more points of support.

Finally Mr. Bird, who has had very considerable experience of matshed structures, and who gave his evidence in a very clear and convincing way after a careful examination of all the data before him, laid especial stress on the principle that you must treat the structure as a whole, and the only improvement he could suggest was the restoration of those raking struts at the rear which the Public Works Department (in order to protect the turf) had forbidden the contractor to erect.

One final word about the three-storeyed sheds upon which a great deal of criticism has been passed. Mr. Wright has pointed out that nearly all the sheds in 1917 were of three storeys, as they had high basements. The increase in 1918 is, therefore trifling, and in 1916 there were even sheds of four storeys which stood in safety.

In conclusion, I submit, gentlemen, that the only verdict you can find on the legal evidence put before you is that the cause of death was suffocation, which was either caused by collapse or fire, and that whatever neglect there may have been on the part of others, whether in the shape of omitting precautions, permitting overcrowding, or recklessly using fire for cooking, there is no evidence of any criminal negligence on the part of the contractors, who honestly and to the best of their knowledge and skill, with good material and workmanship, constructed sheds which would stand any strain which could reasonably be anticipated.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

1.—That the conditions of letting Race matshed sites should be revised by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police with a view to the safety of the public and submitted to the Legislative Council for approval.

2.—That sites should be let to responsible individuals only, subject to a cash deposit as security for compliance with the conditions, which should be signed by lessees.

3.—That the gangway at the back of the sheds should be widened and kept clear of staircases, iron railings, hawkers and other obstructions.

4.—That shores should be allowed at the back of the sheds, precautions being taken to protect the turf.

5.—That the height, floor space, external arrangement and lighting of, and the exits from, the sheds should be approved by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before erection.

6.—That the number to be accommodated on each floor should be fixed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police and conspicuously displayed on each floor, the lessee being subject to a penalty if overcrowding occurs.

7.—That no fire or light (except electric, properly fixed) shall be allowed in any shed in the row. A properly isolated shed might be provided for refreshments.

8.—That the sheds should be passed by the Director of Public Works and Captain Superintendent of Police before the Races, and inspected by their officers daily during the Races, and regularly patrolled by the Police.

9.—That no counters or other provision for the sale, drawing or cashing of tickets should be allowed on any upper floor.

10.—That a detachment of the Fire Brigade, with hose ready fixed, should be in attendance at the Races.

11.—That until a proper fire service has been installed at the Racecourse arrangements should be made for an immediate and adequate supply of sea-water.

12. That the Water Authority should confer with the Captain Superintendent of Police as to the position and size of Fire Hydrants, which should be periodically tested by the Fire Brigade.

13.—That the Fire Brigade should be supplied with maps and instructed as to the position and size of hydrants, the stations and duties of turncocks, the use of the Water Authority's telephone system, etc.

14.—That the fire-float should be in direct telephonic communication with the fire station, and the Racecourse in direct telephonic communication with the Central Police Station by Government telephone in each case.

Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your patient attention to my remarks and apologise for the length of time which I have thought it my duty to occupy.

MR. D. V. STEAVENSON.

Mr. D. V. Steavenson, who appeared for the lessees of the Unity Stand—Nos. 4, 5 and 6—said he did not propose to deal with the evidence, which had been very ably and fully presented by Mr. Bowley, nor offer any criticism on the action of any of the Departments of the Government. His interest in the proceedings was, as they knew, on behalf of the owners of the Unity Stand, and he submitted that the evidence tended to show that as regarded sheds Nos. 4, 5 and 6 no negligence or want of care could be assigned to the owners of that stand. As Mr. Blake had told them, the stand had been built in the same manner for the last 13 years. It had double uprights leading up to the upper floor. It also had solid wooden counters provided by the owners, and there were three large water barrels and eight fire buckets. Two watchmen were stationed at the door of the shed for the control of spectators and there were two detectives on the stand during the whole of the race meeting. So far as his clients were concerned, therefore, he thought the jury would come to the conclusion that reasonable caution had been exercised, such as was ordinarily and customarily taken in looking after the interests of the public. There was only one suggestion he wished to make. His clients had asked him to suggest, if they were to have matsheds erected in the future, that the Government would direct that the iron fence at the back of the Golf Club and also the six-foot matting fence should be entirely removed.

MR. LEO D'ALMADA.

Mr. Leo d'Almada, who appeared for the owners of stands Nos. 7 and 8 and for the families of Mr. L. Xavier and Mr. J. Rosario and for the husband of Mrs. Razack, recalled to the jury the oath which they had taken and said he had no doubt, if they considered it was their duty to condemn anyone, they would not hesitate to do it. As men of position in the Colony, as men of high talent and understanding they would not hesitate to do that duty, however unpleasant and distasteful it might be. In the first place, he thought they would all be satisfied that the collapse occurred before the fire. It was their paramount duty to consider what was the proximate cause of the collapse. In doing so it was necessary to consider in the first place what were the preliminary arrangements made with the lessees by the Government for the erection of the stands. There was no doubt that the Public Works Department had no right to go behind the regulations of the Buildings Ordinance. Those regulations would have to be strictly adhered to. In view of the Buildings Ordinance and in view of the permit issued it was the duty of the Building Authority to see that the sheds were built in accordance with the provisions provided by law. In view of that permit he argued that the Building Authority had what was known as a statutory duty imposed upon them to see that the buildings were properly constructed. If there was negligence in this respect by that Department the responsibility fell on them. As to whether that responsibility might amount to criminal responsibility was a question he was not going to lay particular stress upon. Why was the Buildings Ordinance passed at all? He thought they would agree that it was passed for the safety of the public, to see that everything which was required to be done should be done. If there should be any omission on the part of either the public or the P.W.D. in connection with that Ordinance, penalties were provided. They had heard in that Court many cases in which charges had been brought by the P.W.D against people for omitting to do this or that and these people had been fined. If the public were liable to prosecution for any omission on their part under the provisions of that Ordinance he submitted that the Building Authority was liable on its part for not seeing that the provisions of the Ordinance were not applied in this case.

The Coroner: I don't know whether you can make that point clearer. Mr. Bowley was not prepared to argue that there was any statutory obligation on the Building Authority in regard to these sheds.

Mr. d'Almada: I disagree with him.

The Coroner: You say you find that statutory obligation in the terms of the permit?

Mr. d'Almada: Yes.

The Coroner: The permit says that the person who receives a permit must comply with the terms of the Ordinance. The permit does not go as far as to say that the Building Authority must enforce the provisions of the Ordinance.

Mr. d'Almada contended that the Building Authority had not acted in accordance with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance, as the Director of Public Works had himself admitted in the witness-box that the law had not been applied in this particular case.

The Coroner pointed out that the provisions of Section 222, legally or illegally, had been dispensed with, but no statutory duty had been omitted as far as he knew. After some further argument Mr. d'Almada agreed with this view.

Continuing, Mr. d'Almada said there was also a duty on the contractor, because by common law the matshed contractor had to see that all due care and all proper materials were used on the construction of the sheds. He submitted that there was no single architect or engineer in the Colony who really knew the art or science of matshed construction. Everything was left to the matshed contractor. They had heard from the evidence of the Government officials that only a certain portion of the ground could be built upon. They had also heard from the contractor that he could not put struts in certain places because they would encroach on the golf greens. If he had put struts there he would have been liable to prosecution. But did they think it was properly his duty, if he knew these struts were necessary, to ask that authority should be given him to insert these struts facing the Golf Club? He did nothing of the kind, and he (the speaker) submitted, therefore, that the contractor was equally responsible. The contractor was the man who knew all about matshed construction; and he should have seen that the Government gave him permission to put up the necessary materials for the stability of these sheds. In conclusion, Mr. d'Almada said he did not wish to dilate upon what his learned friend Mr. Bowley had already said with regard to the Government, the C.S.P., or the Fire Brigade. The C.S.P. was not informed about anything in regard to the matsheds and he had no official intimation whatever as regarded the Fire Brigade. The speaker quite agreed that the Fire Brigade should have been present with all necessary appliances, but the fact that certain lessees had chatties for boiling tea did not bring any responsibility on them. There were no provisions regarding such things, nor was there any provision regarding limiting the accommodation. There was no reason why anyone and everyone should not go into the sheds if they were respectable.

The Coroner: Are you asking the jury for a verdict of criminal negligence against the contractor?

Mr. d'Almada: I am not asking them for a verdict one way or another. I have placed before them what I consider the law on the subject and what I consider their responsibility and duty.

The Coroner to Mr. Bowley: Do I understand you to argue that the contractor is clear of all liability if it is shown that death was due to fire and not collapse?

Mr. Bowley: I do not think the contractor can be held responsible for fire.

The Coroner: No, but suppose it is shown that the final cause of death is fire. Do you think that clears the contractor of all liability—criminal liability?

Mr. Bowley: The cause of death must be the immediate cause of death, and if the immediate cause of death is fire there is no liability.

The Coroner: I only want to ask your position. Is that your position?

Mr. Bowley: Yes.

The enquiry was then adjourned until Friday afternoon, when the Coroner will sum up.

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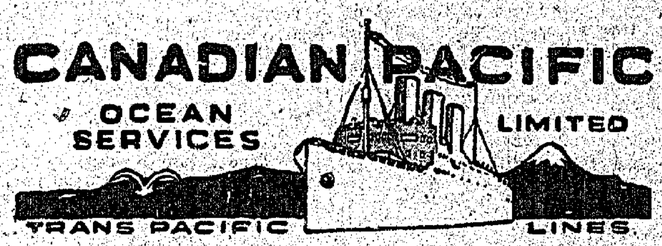

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Batavia.	Semarang.	Padang.
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East Coast of Sumatra.

WEATHER REPORT.

April 8th, at 12.15.—No returns from Japan and Vladivostock. Pressure has decreased over South China and Tongking, and increased slightly elsewhere. The depression over Tongking continues to become deeper.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending 10 a.m. to-day, 092 inch. Total since 1st January, 2·17 inches, against an average of 7·23 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST.
Hongkong to Gap Rock ...	S. & S.E. winds, moderate; cloudy some rain.
Formosa Channel	N.E. winds, moderate.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamocks	The same as No. 1
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Haina...	The same as No. 1.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

8TH APRIL, a.m.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer at Sea Level.	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Direction.	Wind Force.	Weather.
Vladivostock	6 a	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nemuro ...	6 a	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tokio.....	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kochi ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagasaki	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kagoshima ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oshima	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naha ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ishi'jma.	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bonin Island	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weihaiwei	6 a.	30.03	52	91	N	4	of
Hankow ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ichang	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiukiang	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Changsha	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	"	30 01	46	77	NNE	1	o
Gutzlaff	"	29.9.	47	93	NE	2	o
Sharp Peak ...	"	29.9.	60	91	ENE	4	o
Amoy	"	29.88	63	91	NE	1	o
Swatow ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taihoku... ...	6 a.	29.92	68	98	NW	2	o
Taichu	"	29.90	70	—	—	0	o
Tainan	"	29.79	70	—	NE	2	o
Koshun	"	29.80	70	—	—	0	o
Pescadores ...	"	29.80	70	—	NE	4	b
Canton	6 a.	29.69	69	100	E	2	o
Hongkong ...	"	29.73	68	98	ENE	3	o
Gap Rock	"	29.73	—	—	SSE	4	o
Macao	"	29.68	72	100	SE	4	r
Wuchow	9 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoihow	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fakhoi	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phulien	7 a.	29 61	72	94	SE	4	b
Tourane ...	"	29.67	63	—	SW	4	b
Cape St. James	"	29.75	75	—	SSE	4	o
Aparri	6 a.	29.80	75	89	—	0	o
Dagupan	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	"	29.70	73	89	—	0	b
Legaspi	"	29.74	77	86	N	2	b
Tacloban ...	"	29 86	75	94	WNW	1	o
Iloilo	"	29.75	75	92	N	4	o
Surigao ...		—	—	—	—	—	—
Guam	4.30	29 74	75	94	NE	1	o
Labuan ...	6 a.	29 76	78	95	SW	1	o

T. E. CLAXTON, *Director.*

1. BAROMETER, reduced to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, on the level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths.

2. TEMPERATURE, in the shade, in degrees Fahrenheit.

3. HUMIDITY, in percentage of saturation, the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.

4. DIRECTION OF WIND, to two points.

5. FORCE OF WIND, according to Beaufort Scale

6. STATE OF WEATHER, b blue sky, c detached cloud, d drizzling rain, f fog, g gloomy, h hail, l lightning, o overcast, p passing showers, q squally, r rain, s snow, t thunder, v visibility, w dew wet)

7. RAIN in inches, tenths and hundreds.

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, April 8th

	Previous Day at 2 p.m.	On Date at 8 a.m.	On Date at 2 p.m.
Barometer ...	29.69	29.73	29.74
Temperature ...	76	68	76
Humidity ...	91	98	87
Wind Direction...	South	ENE	South
" Force ...	3	2	3
Weather	c	c	c
Rain	0.02	—	0.90

Highest open-air Temperature on 7th 76
Lowest open-air Temperature on 8th 68

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 9th to 15th April, 1918.

Days of Week	Days of Month	HIGH WATER. H'kong Mean Time.	Height	LOW WATER. H'kong Mean Time.	Height
		h. m.	ft. in.	h. m.	ft. in.
Tues.	9	m 7 50	5 6	m 1 50	1 6
		8 10 s	6 6	1 50 s	2 1
Wed.	10	m 8 20	6 1	m 2 24	1 8
		9 3 s	6 4	2 39 s	1 5
Thurs.	11	m 8 52	6 6	m 2 57	2 0
		9 55 s	6 1	3 26 s	1 0
Fri.	12	m 9 28	6 9	m 3 29	2 3
		10 49 s	5 6	4 12 s	0 7
Satur.	13	m 10 5	7 2	m 4 6	2 6
		11 48 s	5 1	4 59 s	0 7
Sun.	14	m 10 42	7 3	m 4 30	3 0
				5 48 s	0 9
Mon.	15	m 0 54	4 6	m 4 59	3 3
		m 11 21	7 1	5 45 s	1 2

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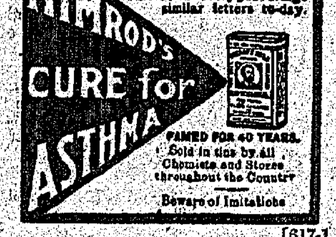

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TIENTSIN	"KUEICHOW"	On 18th Apr., Noon.

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BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.

APCAR LINE.

REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN
CALCUTTA STRAITS, SHANGHAI AND JAPAN PORTS.

EASTWARD

WESTWARD

The above Steamer have excellent Saloon accommodation for Passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a daily qualified Surgeon

For Freight or Passage apply to

DAVID SASSOON & CO., LTD.,
Agents 24

P. & O. S. N. CO.

ROYAL MAIL SERVICE
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
TO
MARSEILLES AND LONDON,

TAKING PASSENGERS AND CARGO TO
STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers to Colombo	Leave Hongkong Noon	Connecting Mail Str. from Colombo	Due at Marseilles 1917	Due at London 1917

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO.
Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.
On the Australian Route Tickets Interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.	LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge.
Return Tickets are available be Messageries Maritimes Company.

INTERMEDIATE STEAMERS
(Non-Transhipment),
IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,
WILL LEAVE DIRECT FOR
MARSEILLES AND LONDON,
Calling at SINGAPORE, PORT SWETTENHAM, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID.

CARRYING 1ST AND 2ND SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES.

PROPOSED SAILINGS:

STEAMERS.	Leave H'KONG about	Leave S'PORE about	Due at M'SEILLES, if calling about	Due LONDON about
The Intermediate	Service is	Temporarily	Suspended.	

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FITTED ON ALL STEAMERS.
All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge and each Berth Furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp.
Round-the-World Tickets and Through Tickets to New York in connection with the Principal Mail Lines.
Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months.
Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expressed of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognised. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
For Further Information, Passage Fares, Freights, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PARR.
Superintendent.

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NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(JAPAN MAIL S.S. CO.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT		SAILING DATES	
		tons		
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	† KAGA MARU	12,500	Sat. 13th April	11 A.M.
	† HIRANO MARU	16,000	Tues. 25th April	11 A.M.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	† AKI MARU	12,500	Sat. 20th April	11 A.M.
	† TANGO MARU	13,500	Sat. 18th May	11 A.M.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	§ BOMBAY MARU	8,000	Tues. 23rd April.	
	§ CEYLON MARU	10,000	Mon. 29th April.	
LONDON OR LIVERPOOL VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN				
MELBOURNE VIA MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURSDAY IS., TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY			For dates of sailing apply at the Company's Office.	
NEW YORK VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL				
BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO				
CALCUTTA VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON				

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji. † Wireless telegraphy.

HONGKONG, VICTORIA, B.C., SEATTLE
VIA
MANILA, SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI & YOKOHAMA.

Operated by the magnificent and splendidly equipped passenger steamers "FUSHIMI MARU," "SUWA MARU," "KASHIMA MARU" and "KATORI MARU," each of over 20,000 tons displacement.

NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

† KATORI MARU ... Sat. 20th April, at 11 A.M.
‡ † SUWA MARU ... ... Wed. 15th May, at 11 A.M.

‡ Omitting Manila Eastbound.

For further information apply to
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.
S. MORI, Manager.

Telephone 232 and 233

TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

SAN FRANCISCO LINE.

VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

FAST AND LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS.

(Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong	
TENYO MARU	23,000	TUES.,	9th Apr.
SHINYO MARU	23,000	SAT.,	27th Apr.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	SAT.,	8th June.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

HONGKONG TO VALPARAISO VIA JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO SAN PEDRO, SALINO CRUZ, BALBOA, CALLAO, ARICA AND IQUIQUE.
THENCE BY TRANS-ANDEAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

ANYO MARU	18,500 Tons
KIYO MARU	17,300 "
NIPPON MARU	11,000 "

Tickets are interchangeable with the CANADIAN PACIFIC CHINA SERVICES, LTD. and the PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.
Passengers may travel by Rail between Ports of Call in Japan free of Charge.
For full information as to rates, sailings, etc., apply to—

T. DAIGO, MANAGER.
TELEPHONE 2374 and 2375. King's Building.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

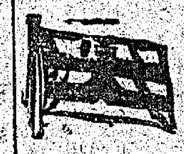
SERVICE TO AND FROM JAPAN VIA SHANGHAI.
SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE.

Ports of call:—Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Djibouti, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles.

ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return Tickets to Europe available for two years.
Return Tickets to Intermediate Ports available for six months.

For full particulars regarding sailings, apply to
P. THOMAS, Agent,
TELEPHONE 740. Queen's Building.



O. S. K.

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line.
(TRANS PACIFIC).

FOR VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA, VIA SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA.

"MANILA MARU"	MONDAY,	29th Apr., at 3 P.M.
"CHICAGO MARU"	MONDAY,	6th May at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling at Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintains cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy

"SOSHU MARU"	THURSDAY,	11th Apr., at 8 A.M.
"KAIJO MARU"	SUNDAY,	14th Apr. at 10 A.M.
"JOSHIN MARU"	MONDAY,	15th Apr. at 9 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside that wharf Telephone No. 75 will be fixed.
For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

K. YAMASAKI, Manager,
No. 1, Queen's Building.
Tel. Nos 744 and 745. 48

CHINA MAIL S.S. CO., LTD.

FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS
S.S. "CHINA"
WILL SAIL FROM HONGKONG FOR
SAN FRANCISCO
VIA SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU TO SAN FRANCISCO.
APRIL 10, 1918.

AN UNSURPASSED HIGH-CLASS PASSENGER SERVICE AT INTERMEDIATE RATES.

O. H. SITTER, Freight and Passenger Agents.
Prince's Buildings, Ice House Street.

POST OFFICE NOTICE

OUTWARD MAILS.

REGISTERED and PARCEL MAILS close 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated.

For	Per	Date
Straits, Burmah and India via Calcutta ..		Tuesday, 9th, 8.00 A.M.
Shanghai, North China and Japan via Nagasaki and Honolulu		Tuesday, 9th, Registration .. 9.45 A.M. Letters 10.30 A.M.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow		Tuesday, 9th, NOON
Saigon		Tuesday, 9th, 1.00 P.M.
Shanghai and North China		Tuesday, 9th, 2.00 P.M.
Straits, Ceylon, Lourenco Marques, Cape Town and *Europe		Wednesday, 10th, 10.00 A.M.
Straits and India via Calcutta		Wednesday, 10th, 11.00 A.M.
Honolulu		Wednesday, 10th, Registration 10.45 A.M. Letters .. 11.20 A.M.
Swatow, Amoy, Formosa via Takao & Anping		Thursday, 11th, 7.00 A.M.
Fort Bayard, Hoihow and Haiphong ..		Thursday, 11th, 9.00 A.M.
Shanghai, North China, Japan via Nagasaki, Canada United States, Central and South America and EUROPE via CANADA .. .. The Parcel Mail will be closed on Wed'day, 10th April at 5 p.m. ...		Thursday, 11th, Registration .. 9.45 A.M. Letters 10.30 A.M.
Shanghai and North China		Thursday, 11th, 2.00 P.M.

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 8TH APRIL, 1918

Stocks.	Paid up Value.	Official Quotation 10.30 a.m.	Closing Quotation	Last Dividend.
BANKS.—				
Hongkong and Shanghai ...	$125	$600/590 sal.		£3 3/- for ½ year ending 31·12·17
INSURANCES.—				
Canton	$50	$320, buyers		$25 for 1915
China Fires	$20	$133, buy.		$9 for 1916
Hongkong Fires	$50	$300, buyers		$27 for 1916
North Chinas	£5	T. 120, buy.		20% for 1916
Unions	$100	$800, sales		$60 for 1915
Yangtazes	$80	$217½, buy.		$21 for 1915
SHIPPING —				
Douglas S.S. Co.	$50	$74		$10 for year ending 30·6 17
Canton Steamboats	$15	$22, buyers		50 cents for 1917
Indo-China Pref.	£5	$32½, buyers		3/- int. account 1917
Do. Def.	£5	$152		6/- int. account 1917
Star Ferry Co.	$10	$28, sellers		$2.10 for year ending 30·4·17
REFINERIES.—				
China Sugars	$100	$80, buyers		$12 for 1916
Malabon Sugars	P30	$29½, buyers		Ps. 8 for 1917
DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—				
Kowloon Wharf Co.	$50	$85		$6 and bonus of $4 for 1917
H. and W. Dock Co.	$50	$123		$5 and bonus of $7 for 1917
Shanghai Docks	Tls. 100	T. 104½, buy.		Tls. 9 for year ending 30·4·17
LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—				
Central Estates	$100	$90		$7 for 1917
Hongkong Hotels	$50	$87½, buyers		$3 for ½ year 31·12·17
Hongkong Lands	$100	$85, sales		$3½ making $7 for 1917
Hongkong Land Reclamation ...	$75	$110		$5.25 for 1917
Humphreys Estates	$10	$5⅜, buyers		50 cents for 1917
Kowloon Lands	$30	$27½		$2½ for 1917
West Points	$50	$78		$3 making $6 for 1917
OILS.—				
Langkats	G10	Ts. 17, s &b.		T. 1 for year ending 31·10·16
Shells	£1	120/-, buyers		2/- int. account 1917
Ural Caspians	£1	20/-		9% for 1915/16
MINING.—				
Kailans	£1	40/-, buyers		1/- int. acct. year ending 30·6·17
Raubs	£1	$2.85, sel.		None since 1916
Trooh	£1	32/-, buy.		2/- int. account 1917
COTTON MILLS.—				
Ewo	Tls. 50	T. 175, buy.		T. 20 for year ending 31·10·17
Kung Yik	Tls. 10	T. 13½, buy.		T. 2 for year ending 30·11·17
Oriental C. S. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	T. 45½		Tls. 6 for 1913
Shanghai	Tls. 50	T. 140		Tls. 6 for year ending 30·6·17
Yangtszepoo	Tls. 5	T. 9½, buy.		7% on Pref. Shares for 1917
MISCELLANEOUS.—				
China Borneo	$12	$9, buyers		60 cents for 1916
China Lights	$5	$4.10, buy.		None since 1918
China Providents	$10	$7.10		70 cents for 1917
Dairy Farms	$7½	$29		$2 for year ending 31·7·17
		$5.90, buy.		
Green Island Cement	$7½			60 cents for 1917
Hongkong Electrics	$10	$482, buyers		$3 for year ending 28·7·17
Hongkong Ices	$25	$215, buy.		$11 for 1917
Hongkong Ropes	$10	$26½, sellers		$3 for 1917
Hongkong Steels	$10	$10		$1 for year ending 31·5·17
Hongkong Trams	5/-	$6.10, sales		9% int. account 1917
Peak Trams Old	$10	$8, sellers		7% for year ending
Do. New	$1	$0.80, sel.		do. [30·4·17
Steam Laundries	$5	$4, sellers		35 cents for year ending 31·5·17
Union Waterboats ...	$7	$11, buyers		12½% for 1917
Watson & Co.	$10	$54, buyers		70 cents for 1917
Wm. Powell, Limited	$7	$8½, buyers		None since 1914

Rubbers, (Singapore Currency).	Paid up Value.	Year Ends.	Latest Quotation.	Dividend for Last Year.	Int. Div. to Date.
Ayer Panas	$5	Jan.	$3.00	25 p. c.	—
Glenealy	$1	Oct.	$2.20	25 p. c.	—
Kedahs...	$1	April	$3.90	55 p. c.	20 p. c.
Kempas	$½	June	$7.75	40 p. c.	—
Malaka Pinda...	$1	Aug.	$2.30	33 p. c.	—
Malakoff	$1	Dec.	$4.30	30 p. c.	—
New Serendah	$2	Dec.	$4.40	27½ p. c.	—
Pajams...	$5	Sept	$12.50	5⅓ p. c.	—
Sandycroft	$2	Jan.	$3.75	30 p. c.	12½ p. c.
Tapah	$10	Dec.	$15.00	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Plantation Rubber in London ...			2/5		

VERNON & SMYTH. Share Brokers.

COMMERCIAL

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	April 6th
LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer ..	3/-½
Bank Bills, on demand ..	3/-⅝
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ..	3/1
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..	3/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight ..	3/2
Documentary Bills 4 months' sight	3/2⅛
ON PARIS—	
Bank Bills, on demand	418
Credits, at 4 months' sight ..	432½
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand ..	73½
Credits, at 60 days' sight ..	—
ON BOMBAY—	
Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank Bills, on demand ..	nom
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer ..	—
Bank Bills, on demand — ..	nom
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank Bills, at sight —	nom
Private, 30 days' sight ..	—
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	146½
ON MANILA.—On demand—Pesos	146
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand ..	131⅜
ON BATAVIA.—On demand ...	160⅜
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	½% p.m
ON SAIGON.—On demand	½% p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	par
SOVEREIGN Bank's Buying Rate	$ 6.45
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	$42.80
BAR SILVER per oz	45⅜d.

Subsidiary Coins	per cent.	
Hongkong ...20 cents. pieces...	$0 00	Premium
Hongkong ...10 „ ...	$0 03	Discount
Canton .....20 „ ...	$7.42	„
Canton .....10 „ ...	$0.00	„

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, 11th April:—
5.15 p.m.—Hongkong Lawn Tennis League, Annual General Meeting in the Hongkong Cricket Club Pavilion.
Saturday, 13th April:—
Marathan Race.
Tuesday, 23rd April:—
St. George's Day.

VISITORS TO CANTON
Should Purchase
"FROM HONGKONG TO CANTON BY THE PEARL RIVER,"
BY
CAPTAIN C. V. LLOYD.
With Illustrations, Maps and Flags.

PRICE $1.75

On Sale at:—
Hongkong: "DAILY PRESS" Office.
„ Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LTD
„ Messrs. BREWER & Co.
Canton: Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co.

BARRIBAL GIRL OIL PAINTINGS FREE.

For a limited time only anyone returning 5 empty "Commander" cigarette tins to the WESTMINSTER TOBACCO CO., LTD., 18, Bank Buildings, Hongkong, will receive free of all cost one of the famous Barribal Girl paintings reproduced in Oils, Stretched on Canvas and Mounted on a Wooden frame.

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO., LIMITED.

AGENTS FOR

WESTMINSTER TOBACCO CO., LIMITED.

LONDON.

"Commander" Super-size Cigarettes are stocked by all High Class Tobacconists.

This advertisement is issued by Westminster Tobacco Co., Ltd. [1469

BROSSARD & MOPIN,

Phone: 2566. CIVIL ENGINEERS. KING'S BUILDINGS, HONGKONG. Telegraphic Address: "BROSSARD."

REINFORCED CONCRETE SPECIALISTS.

Agencies:—SAIGON, SINGAPORE, PEKING and TIENTSIN.

REINFORCED CONCRETE IS ABSOLUTELY FIRE-PROOF AND OFFERS SUBSTANTIAL RESISTANCE TO EARTHQUAKE SHOCK.

Estimates on Application to the above or to the Agents.

WM. C. JACK & CO., LTD.,

14, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG. [67

BANKS

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

CAPITAL (4 Paid up) ... ... Francs 45,000,000
(1/3 of the Capital subscribed by the Government of the Chinese Republic).
Chairman of the Board of Directors } André Berthelot,
General Manager A. J. Pernotte.

HEAD OFFICE:
74, Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS.
BRANCHES:
PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HONGKONG, SAIGON.
BANKERS:
In FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.
In LONDON: London County & Westminster Bank, Ltd.
In NEW YORK: Redmond & Co.
Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application.
Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

M. ROUET DE JOURNEL, Manager.
HONGKONG BRANCH,
Queen's Buildings
5, Chater Road. Tel No. 2359
Hongkong, 14th May, 1917. [1470

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed on the Minimum Monthly Balances at 3½ per cent. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option balances of $100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 per cent. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 2nd November, 1914. [10

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

Paid-up Capital... ... ... £1,200,000
Reserve Fund £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors £1,200,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking business transacted.

URRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for 1 year or shorter periods at rates which will be quoted on application.

T. C. DOWNING, Manager
Hongkong 8th May 1917. [1469

BANKS

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital $15,000,000
Reserve Funds:—
Sterling £1,500,000, at 2/— $15,000,000
Silver $19,500,000
$34,500,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors $15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:
Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK—Chairman.
G. T. M. ENKINS, Esq.—Deputy Chairman.
F. C. Butcher, Esq. | E. V. D. Parr, Esq.
S. H. Dodwell, Esq. | W. L. Pattenden, Esq.
C. S. Gubbay, Esq. | Hon. Mr. E. Shellim.
Hon. Mr. D. Landale.

CHIEF MANAGER:
Hongkong—N. J. STABB, Esq.
MANAGER:
Shanghai—A. G. STEPHEN, Esq.
LONDON BANKER:
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

HONGKONG INTEREST ALLOWED.
On Current Account at the rate of Two per cent. per annum on the Daily Balance.
On FIXED DEPOSITS,
For 3 months, 2½ per cent. per annum.
„ 6 „ 3 „ „
„ 12 „ 4 „ „
N. J. STABB, Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 6th March, 1918. [9

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 15, Gracechurch St., London

Authorised Capital £1,500,000
Subscribed „ 1,125,000
Paid-up „ 562,500
Reserve Fund „ 600,000

BANKERS:
THE BANK OF ENGLAND,
THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED

BRANCHES:
Bombay Galle Karachi Penang
Calcutta Hongkong Kota Bhara Rangoon
Colombo Howrah KualaLampur Shanghai
Delhi Kandy Madras Singapore
Fort Louis (Mauritius).

HONGKONG BRANCH.
Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at 2 per cent. per annum on Daily Balances and on Fixed Deposits at rates that may be ascertained on application.

C. CHAMPKIN
Acting Manager.
No. 7, Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong, 26th May, 1916. [887

BANKS

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED (TAIWAN GINKO),

INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL IMPERIAL CHARTER, 1899.

Capital Subscribed ... ... Yen 20,000,000
Capital Paid-up ... ... „ 20,000,000
Reserve Funds ... ... „ 5,680,000

HEAD OFFICE:
TAIPEH, FORMOSA

BRANCHES:
JAPAN—KOBE, OSAKA, TOKYO & YOKOHAMA
FORMOSA—AKO, GIRAN, KAGI, KARENKO, KEELUNG, MAKUNG, PINAN, SHINCHIKU, TAICHU, TAIWAN, TAKOW TAMSUI.
CHINA—AMOY, CANTON, FOOCHOW, HANKOW, KIUKIANG, SHANGHAI, SWATOW
OTHERS—BATAVIA, BOMBAY, HONGKONG, LONDON, SINGAPORE, SOERABAIA, SEMARANG AND NEW YORK.

LONDON BANKERS:
Capital and Counties Bank, London, and South-Western Bank, Parr's Bank.

The Bank has Correspondents in the Commercial centres of Russia, Manchuria, India China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia America, and elsewhere.
Interest allowed on Current Account, Fixed Deposits, and Savings Deposits at rates which will be quoted on application.

N. YANAGITA, Manager.
HONGKONG BRANCH,
3, Des Voeux Road.
Hongkong, 2nd April, 1918. [600

THE BANK OF CHINA GOVERNMENT BANK.

(SPECIALLY AUTHORISED BY PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE OF 14TH APRIL, 1912.)

Authorised Capital $50,000,000
Paid-up Capital $10,000,000

HEAD OFFICE:—PEKING.

BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES,
SHANGHAI, NANKING, Chinkiang, Yangchow Wuhieh, Wuhu, Anking, Tsdung, Tsiukiangpo, Soochow, HANKOW, Shasi Ichang, Nanchang, TIENTSIN, Paoting Tongshan, Luanhsien Tsangchsien, Heingtai, HANGCHOW, Wenchow, Shaohsin Chiahsin, Lanchi, Hushow, Ningpo KAIFENG, Changteh, Sinyang, Lohe Chowkou, TSINAN, Chowtsun, Tsaohsien Linchi, Linching, Tsinian, Yihsien Huiming, Caotao, Tsingtao, TAIYUAN Yuanchang, FOOCHOW, CHANGCHUN Kirin, Mukden, Newchwang, Dairen Harbin, Tsitsihar, Tsiling, Gaimahen Antung, CANTON, KUNIYANG, PEKING, Kaoika's Baiyunshang, etc., etc.

CANTON BRANCH.
Interest allowed on current accounts and Fixed Deposits Terms on application. Every description of Banking business transacted. Loans granted on approved securities Special facilities for Home Exchange.
Hongkong 15th October, 1914. [1169

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